HAMARI AWAAZ

A poster series on social issues

Presented by The Sameeksha Collective

Under UGC-CPE Teaching Activities

Mentor: Sunita Pandhe Gupta Dept. of Sociology, Fergusson College, Pune

2013-14

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This project is an outcome of the collective efforts of many friends who painted the posters, gave innumerable ideas, helped in covering them, in putting them up, who critiqued them and made them better. The names are many and it is impossible to name all.

While designing and making these posters we have referred to several articles, poems, cartoons, songs, movies and documentaries. We thank these authors, poets, cartoonists, singers and film makers.

Vivek Singh, Dhaval Prabhu and Shrenik Mutha have painstakingly digitized all the posters, complied them and written introductions to each section. We thank them.

We further want to thank our Sunita ma'am who personally has known almost each and every Sameeksha member, motivated, inspired and guided them in times of need. She has also been the one to mentor all of the posters which come in this catalogue.

We also would like to thank Kalyani for doing the tedious task of taking photographs; Payal and Amrita for their reviews of the introductions that were very helpful. Thank you.

We would like to thank Prof. Mahamuni of Photography Department for providing us much-needed space always where we discussed issues and made these posters. Also, we can never forget Nirmal Mama's generous help in lending the projector without making a fuss and waiting for the discussions to get over before he left for his lunch.

Last but not the least; we want to thank the Sociology department and Fergusson College for enabling us to make these posters.



INDEX

| Introduction | 1 |
|--|-----|
| Inspirations from Gandhi | 2 |
| Environment and Development ———————————————————————————————————— | 34 |
| Gender ———————————————————————————————————— | 59 |
| Caste ———————————————————————————————————— | 105 |
| Child Rights ———————————————————————————————————— | 122 |
| Indian Democracy ———————————————————————————————————— | 141 |
| Media ———————————————————————————————————— | 167 |
| Nuclear Power | 180 |
| Peace ——————————————————————————————————— | 198 |
| Urban Commons ———————————————————————————————————— | 223 |
| Miscellaneous | 238 |



INTRODUCTION

Sameeksha- the Sociology Club started 8 years ago. Having nothing to start with but a group of enthusiastic students, the club has come a long way since, moulding and shaping itself. Like the name suggests, the idea of the Club was to go beyond the surface level and look critically in depth at social reality. The aim was to raise awareness and sensitivity amongst the students. The group discussions, film screenings, huge series of posters and street plays were all aimed at reaching out to more people. Sameeksha- the Socio Club has been and is an on-going process.

This catalogue is a collection of all the posters that the club has made so far. The issues highlighted in these posters are related to excesses of development, gender-inequality, prevalence of caste-system, global north-south inequality, growing violence, environmental degradation, and the list continues. It is quite obvious that many of our posters across sections are connected, complimentary, or even overlapping. But then, that also tells us that these issues are connected and over-lapping. These posters are open to criticism and dialogue.

This catalogue, 'Hamari Awaaz' is an attempt to amplify our voices and widen our reach. It is an attempt to put forth our hopes and ideas. Also, it is a recognition and appreciation of the contribution of all the people involved in the process- clubs members of the past and the present; scholars and journalists whose writings gave direction to us; makers of the documentaries and films that made us think and rethink; cartoonists from whom we so often found inspiration; NGOs and many individuals who took workshops, seminars, lectures for us which played a very important role in sensitizing us. The list could go on with so many people playing so many different yet crucial roles. Without all these people, the club couldn't have gone on and this catalogue would never have been made. And since we owe so much to so many people, it is only right that we share this with everyone.

We started digitizing the posters when we realised that with use and reuse they were getting damaged. A virtual copy seemed to be a good way of preserving the work and thus we began compiling the posters from the various days we observed- Human Rights Day, Independence Day, Gandhi Punyatithi, International Day of Peace, Hiroshima Day, Holocaust Day. However, this seemed like a futile exercise until we saw the response our posters triggered when we took them to other places. In these interactions, we realised that the posters provoked engagement, if not agreement.

And this is what we hope to achieve through "Hamari Awaaz"- to start a dialogue, across boundaries of identities and ideologies and to move forward in the pursuit of goodness of the society.

We hope that future batches of students take it further and keep updating this collection to cover new happenings.

Inspirations From Gandhi

"The historical Gandhi was a finite being complete with common frailties and unique strengths. His role as a father and husband are open to criticism. His various political actionsduring negotiations with the British or on the formation of Pakistancan be questioned, dissected, even condemned. This Gandhi is now only of academic historical interest.

What lingers as the spirit of Bapu Kuti are Gandhi's dreams and aspirations for a great evolutionary leap in human civilization. And Gandhi took pains to stress that he had no unique claim on these hopes."

-Rajni Baxi, Bapu Kuti

In the posters that are about to come, it is an effort to talk about this spirit of 'Bapu's aspirations' and not only about Bapu. There has been a constant effort to not deify him, not look at his ideas as the perfect answers to our problems today but, to engage with him, critically. Some of his ideas are problematic-like his take on issues of gender and caste, or his idea of a 'Ramrajya' and they need to be criticized. But, that is not all that he is. His ideas are no readymade gospels available to mankind, but they could be pointing in a direction where there is an alternative way of life. Probably, Gandhi would never agree with us calling his way as just an 'alternative' way but we still would go ahead and do so because, today's mainstream is something else-male-stream, market-stream, material-stream and so on.

If as Rajni Bakshi points out, Bapu's spirit still lingers on, there are people who have since his death (probably even before it) recognized the value of ensuring that his values be kept living, not memorialized into a museum piece but, thriving and living and growing. What follows, is an attempt to look at various such people, their ideas and the creative and imaginative ways in which they have been allies to Gandhi's spirit. These allies haven't only always agreed with the spirit of his ideas but, conversed, negotiated and then critically engaged and set examples for the relevance of Gandhi, where, probably 'Hind Swaraj' becomes such an interesting way of looking at his critique of modernity and rewriting another Hind Swaraj for today's India.

We all are aware of Gandhi's (at times seemingly stupid and maybe, even romantic) ideas of an ideal life. But, let us not forget, inspite of being busy the way he was, he practiced them. He lived his politics.

However, this awareness in the public mostly is a very superficial understanding of his ideas which has led to him being made fun of, mocked at-the classic example of 'Give your other cheek ahead'. Many people rubbish Gandhi's ideas by saying they won't work anymore. But in doing so, we run the risk of trivializing him and his ideas.

One of the most important learning was the idea of 'shared humanity' which he so beautifully put:

"What barrier is there that love cannot break?"

The posters which come in this section have been categorized into 3 ways-Today's Gandhi, 'Modern-day' Gandhians and Gandhian group initiatives.

In the first section, we have tried to look at where does Gandhi stand? What do we have to take form him today so that we can all have a better tomorrow? Why hate the one who spoke to us about non-hatred and love? Has he already become fossilized today?

In the second and the third sections, we have looked at individual and organizational initiatives, some of them who do not even go by tagging themselves as Gandhians and some who do. Irrespective of their calling themselves so or no, their work does have very strong Gandhian currents running in the way it functions, the issues it takes up, etc. Ashish Kothari and Aseem Srivastava's 'Churning the earth: Making of global India' has been one important source for designing the posters in the 3rd section.

While making these posters, it never did stay an activity only at an intellectual level but, transformed to a level where there were discussions about personalizing Gandhi for each of us and what does each one's Gandhi have to offer to them. And in doing so and while doing so, we also tried that our ways of working were democratic, power was decentralized and people engaged with him and thus with one another for

he finally said:

"Interdependence is and ought to be as much the ideal of man as self-sufficiency. Man is a social being." -Mahatma Gandhi



· Gandhi's Principles of Non-Violence

- All life is one. Within us - We all have truth and untruth.

-The means must be consistent with the ends.

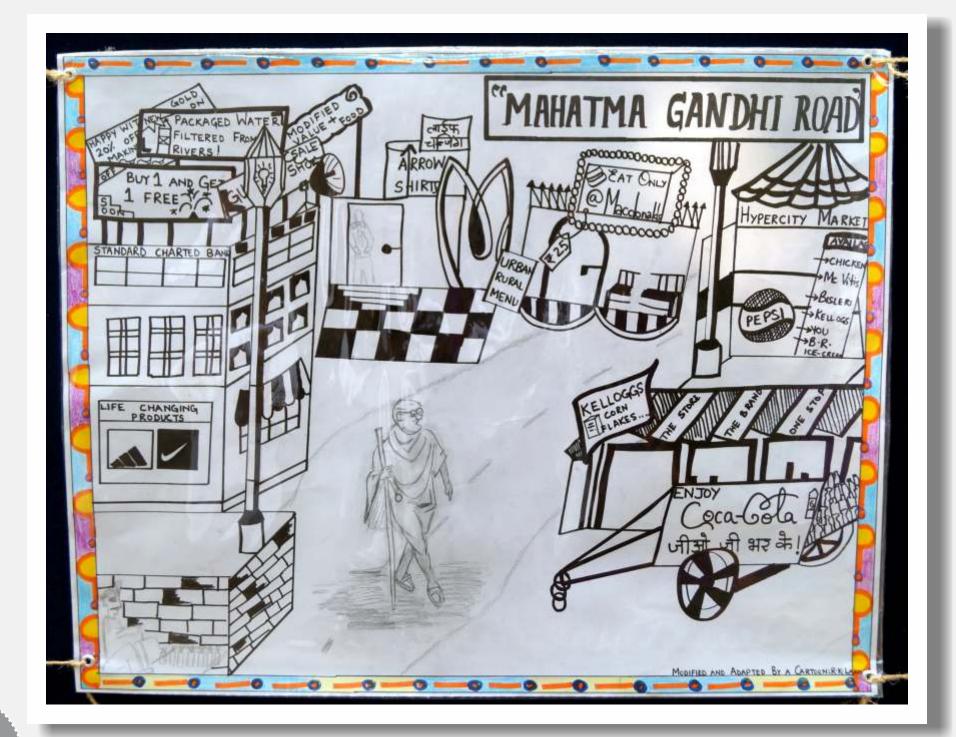
- We must celebrate both our differences & fundamental

unity.

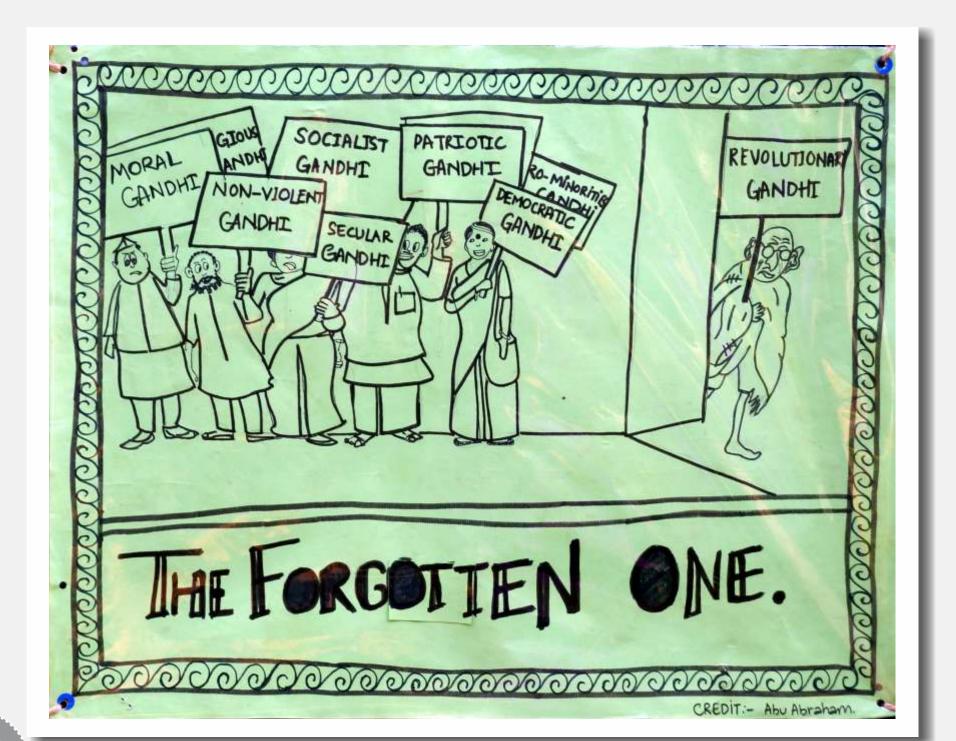
- Our oneness calls us to work for the well being of all.

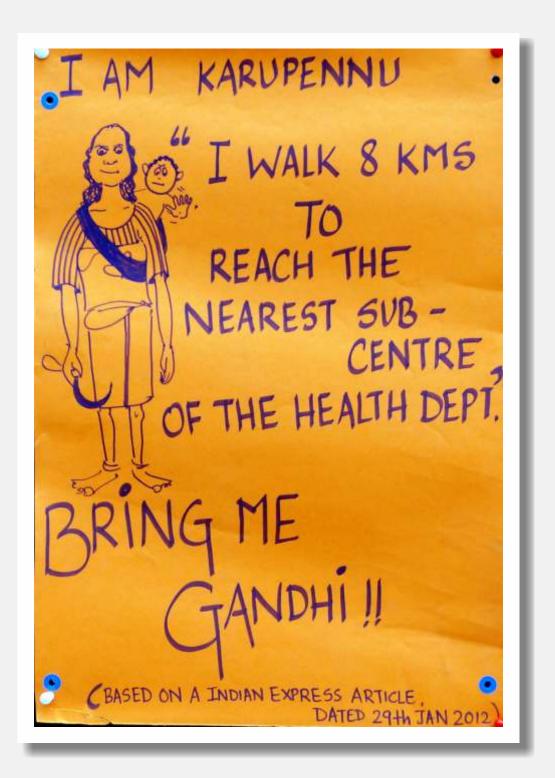
STRUCTURAL VIOLENCE

- STRUCTURAL VIOLENCE OCCURS DUE TO SOCIAL INEQUALITIES
- POVERTY, HUNGER AND MALNOURISHMENT IS A FORM OF STRUCTURAL VIOLENCE
- DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF
 CASTE, CLASS, LANGUAGE, RELIGION, GENDER
 AND RACE IS A PART OF STRUCTURAL
 VIOLENCE
- DEVELOPMENT CAUSES VIOLENCE AGAINST
 NATURE AND MARGINALISED PEOPLE
- STRUCTURAL VIOLENCE OFTEN CAUSES
 DIRECT VIOLENCE LIKE TERROR, CRIME,
 WAR ETC.









THE MAHATMA AS MANAGER

Dear Mahatma,
On behalf of Complex Lifestyles Solutions, I think
you for applying for the job of Vice President (Corporate Communication)
in our esteemed Company. Thankyou for sending us your elaborate
autobiography.

i) THE POSITION YOU HAVE APPLIED FOR REQUIRES VICE, NOT VIRTUE. PLEASE NOTE

THAT WE HAD NOT ADVERTISED FOR A VIRTUE PRESIDENT.

i) Your commitment to constant truth telling is dangerous for our organisation's Self-Image. We want someone who can be very Economical with Truth.

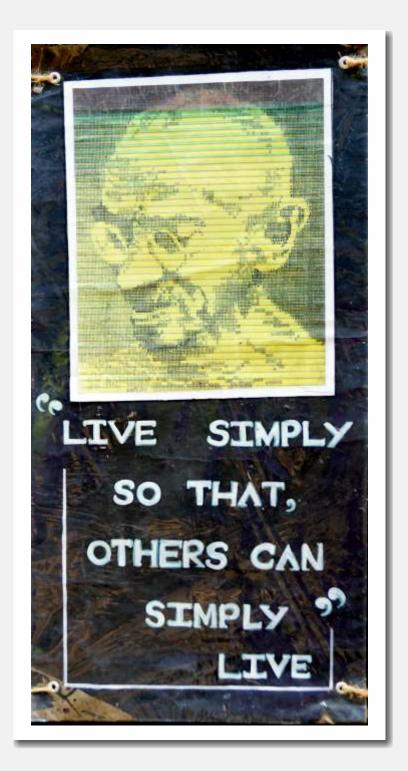
- HERE WE ARE, LOOKING FOR A HIGH TESTOSTERONE, CAN-DO, COMBAT-READY LOUD HUMAN SAKOPHONE AND NOT A TURN-THE-OTHER-CHEEK TYPE.
- WE ARE A SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE COMPANY AS A MATTER OF POLICY AND
 WITHIN PERMISSIBLE LIMITS. WE DO SMUGGLE SOME PESTIBIDES IN OUR PRODUCT
 BUT MAKE UP FOR IT BY ADVERTISING SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE MESSAGES ON
 PAID COMMERCIAL CHANNELS.
- V) YOU SAY THAT YOU LIVE SIMPLY SO THAT OTHERS MAY SIMPLY LIVE . UNFORTUNATELY, WE ARE IN THE COMPLEX LIFESTYLE SOLUTIONS BUSINESS . THE MORE COMPLEX LIFE GETS THE MORE PEOPLE BUY OUR SOLUTIONS.
- V) BY THE WAY, WHAT IS THIS AHIMSA THING ? WE ARE ALSO FIRM BELIEVERS IN NON-VIOLENCE

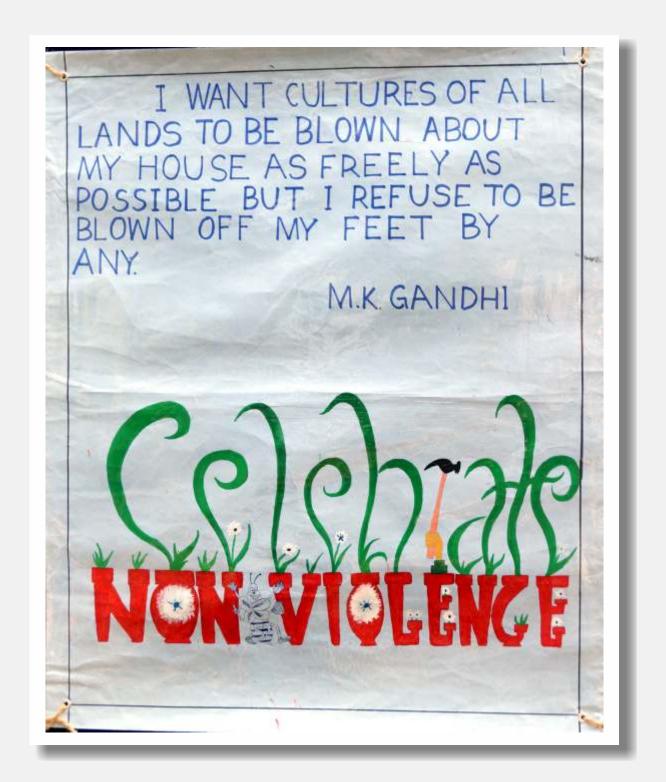
WE JUST OUT-TALK, OUT-SMART, OUT-SELL AND KILL ALL COMPETITION.

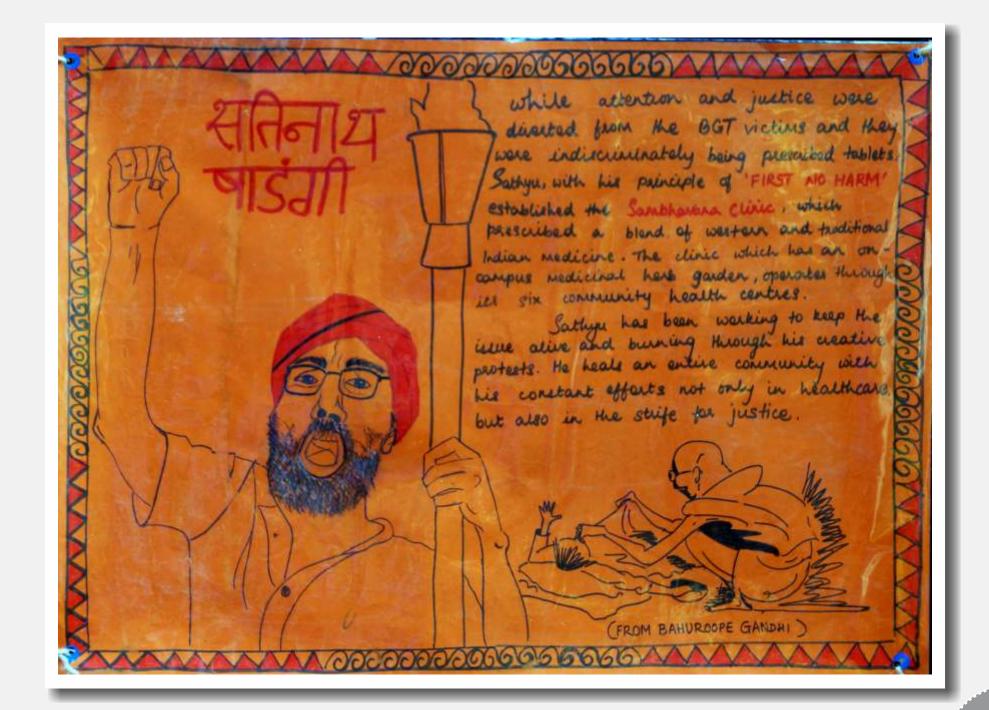
OUR COMPANY MISSION STATEMENT IS INSPIRED BY ONE OF THE GREATEST LEADERS IN HUMAN HISTORY WHO INCIDENTLY WAS BORN ON THE SAME DAY AS YOURS THERE IS ENOUGH FOR A MAN'S NEED, BUT NOT ENOUGH FOR HIS GREED. AS LONG AS THERE IS NEVER ENOUGH, WE WILL CONTINUE TO GROW IN BUSINESS!

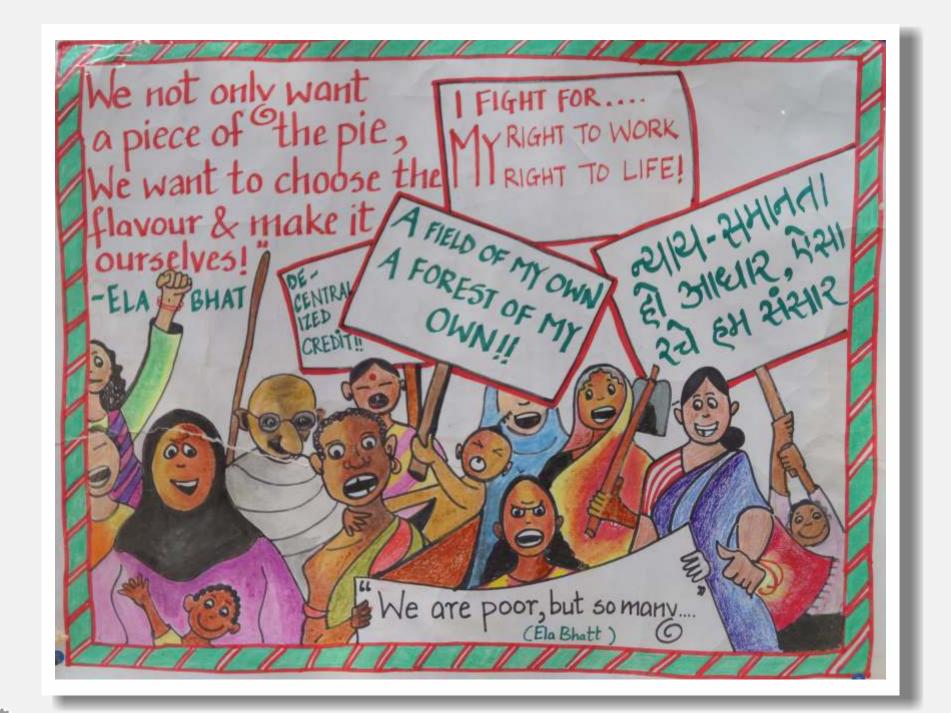
We negret to inform you that we cannot offer you the job at the present time Should a revolution happen in the future, we shall consider!

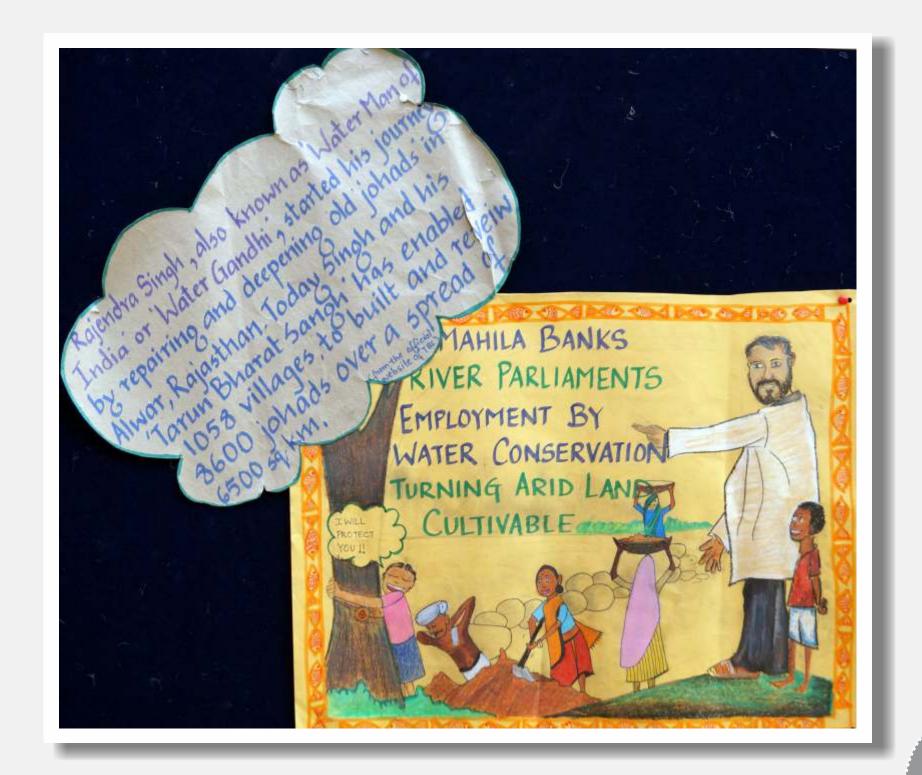
Sinceraly - VP (HUMAN RE-ENGINEERING)

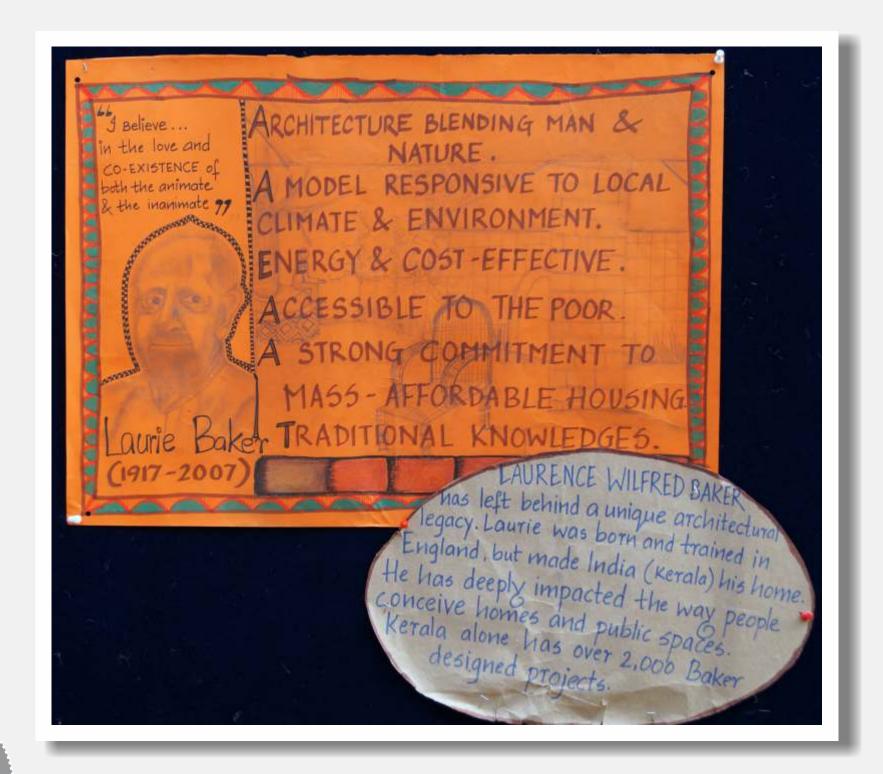


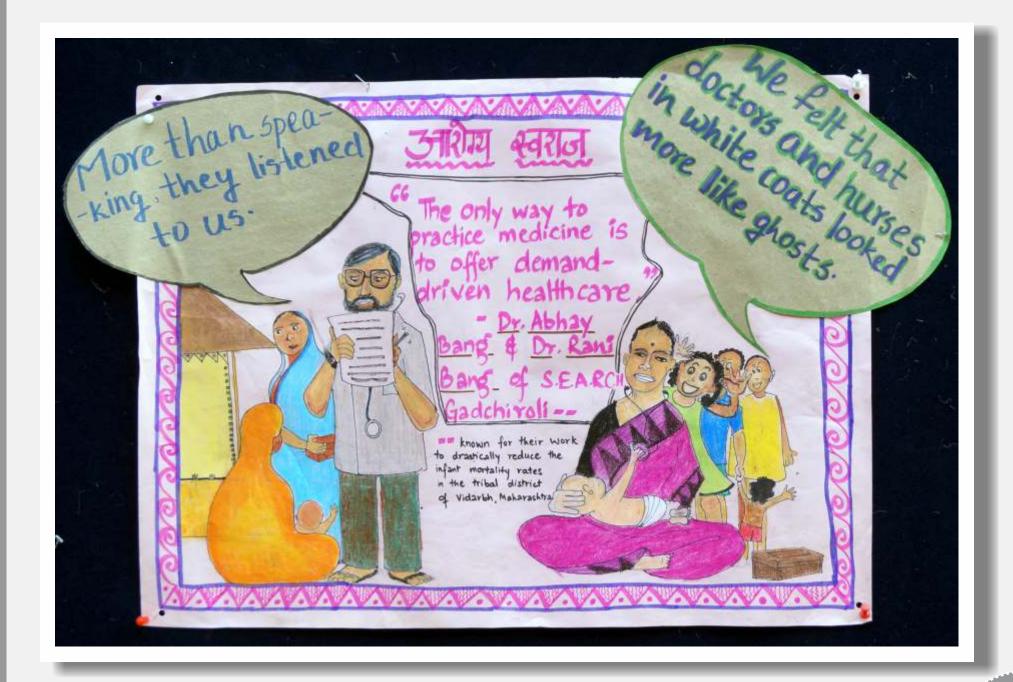


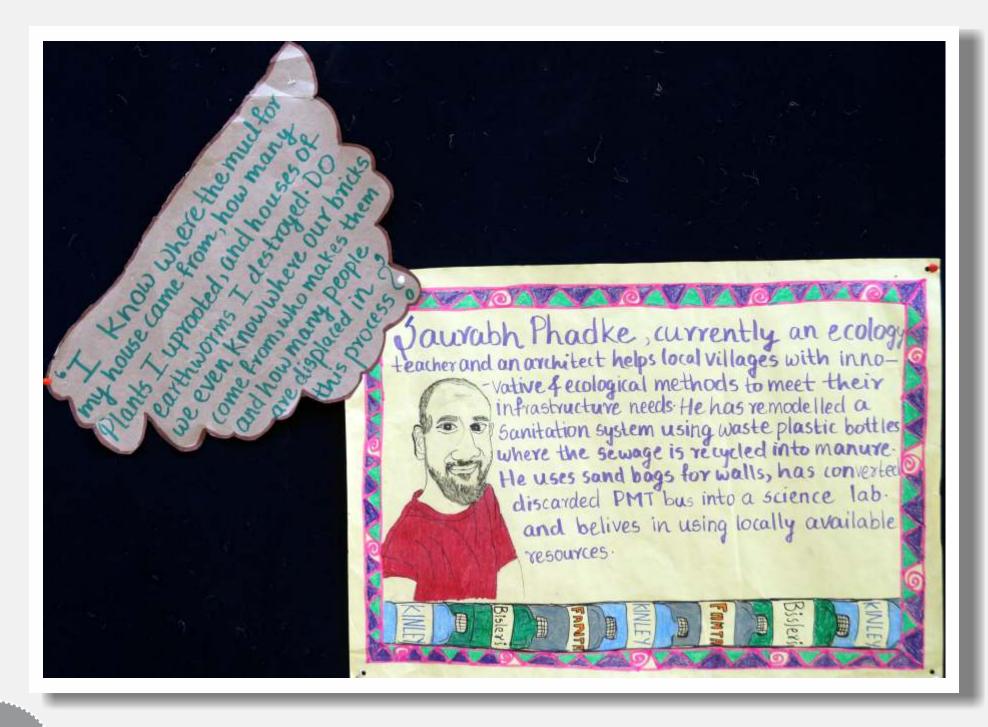


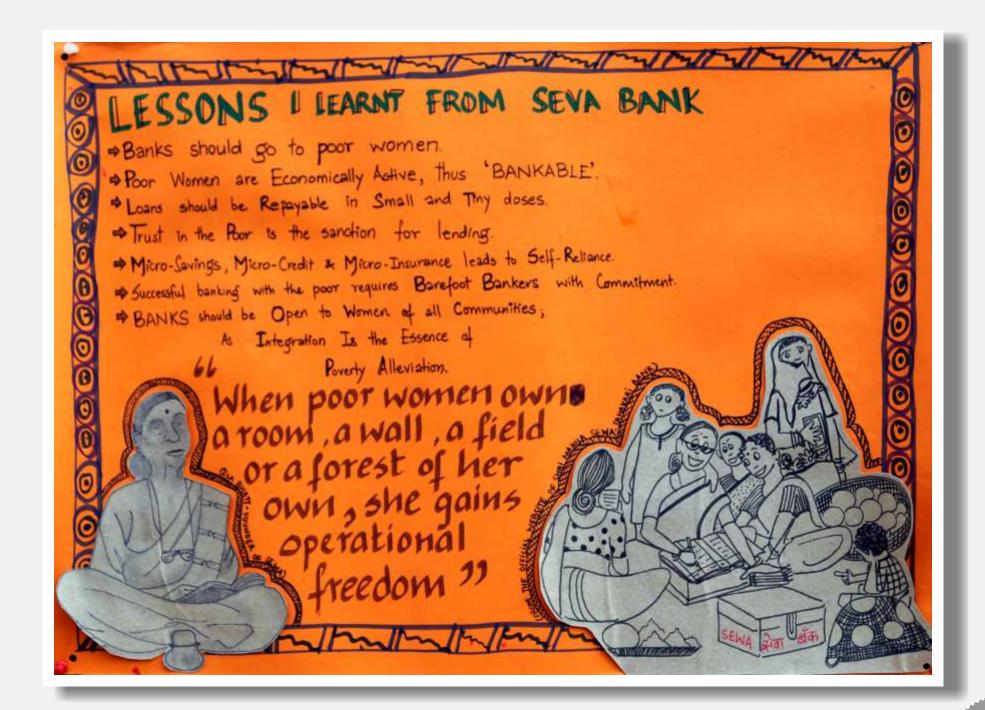


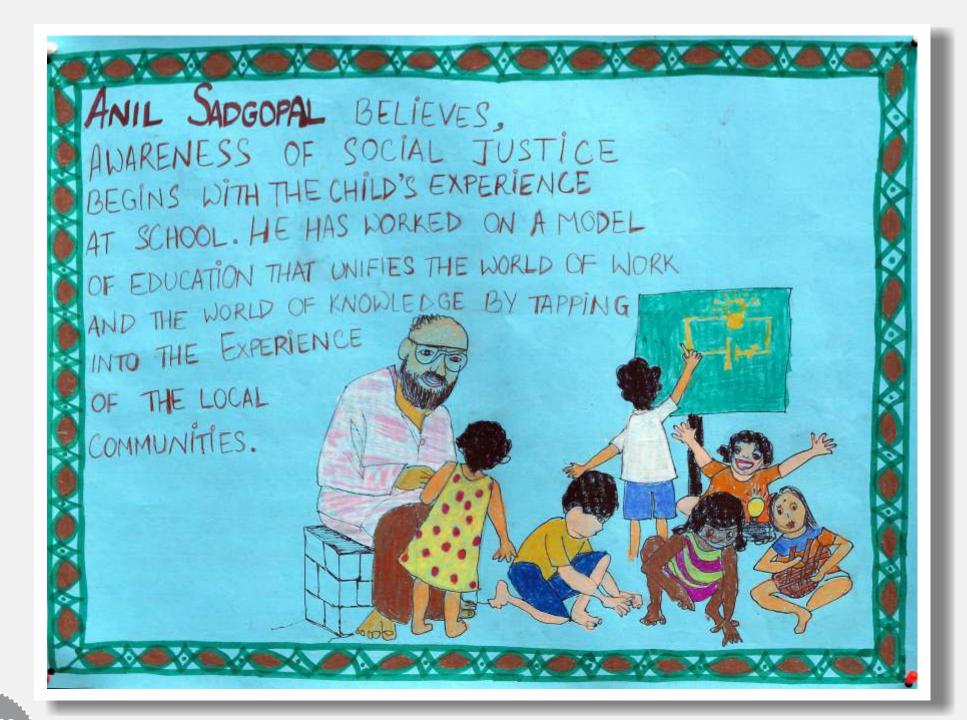




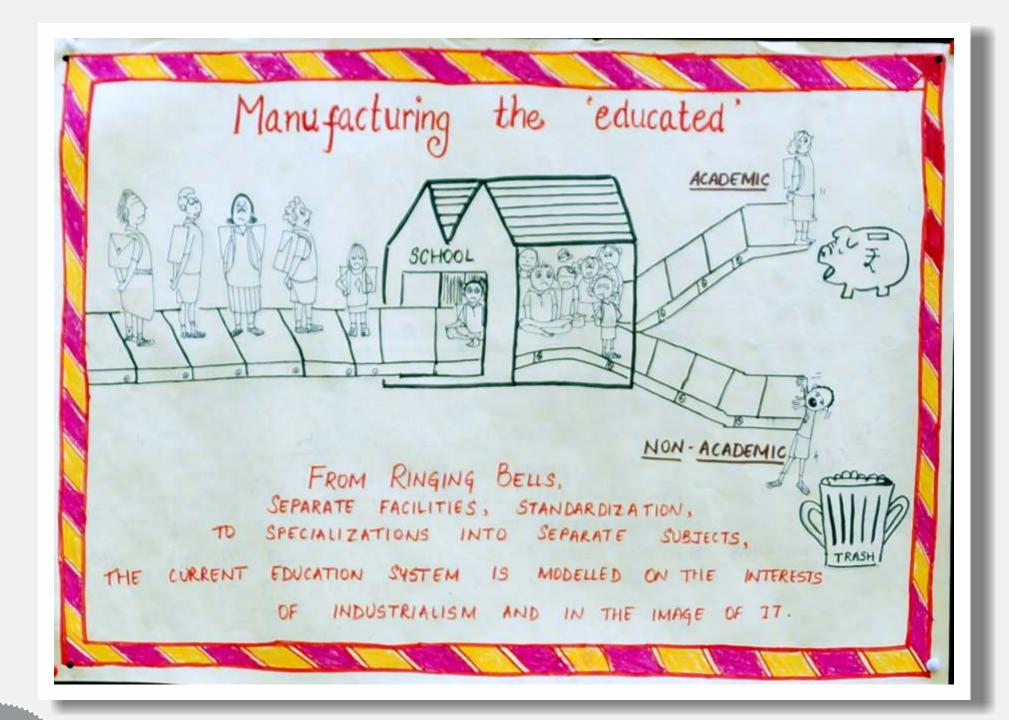


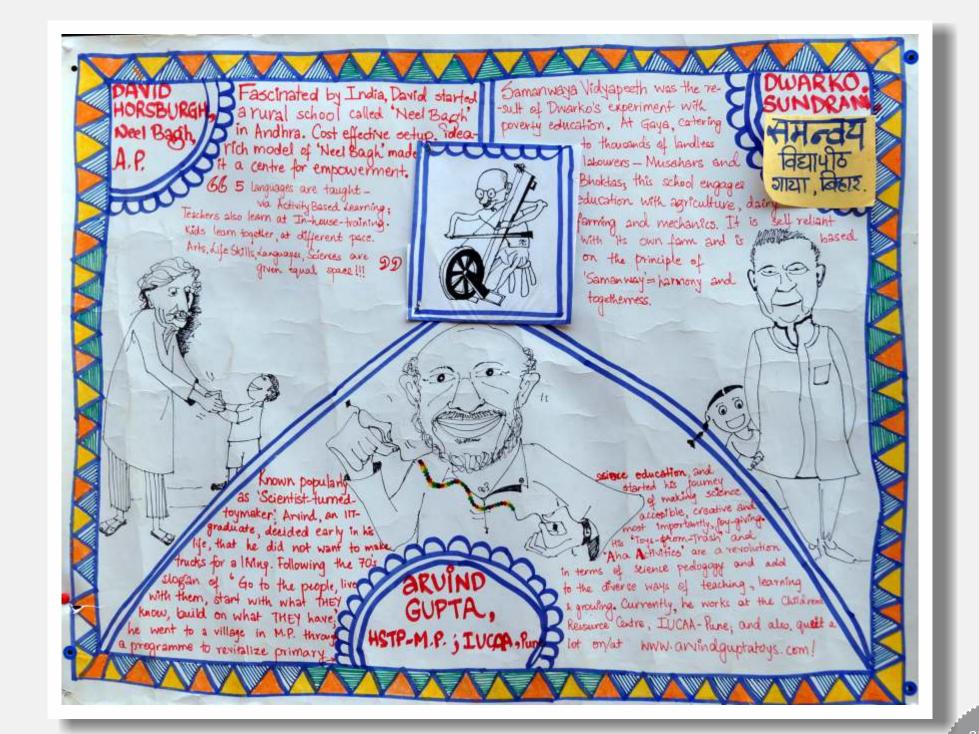




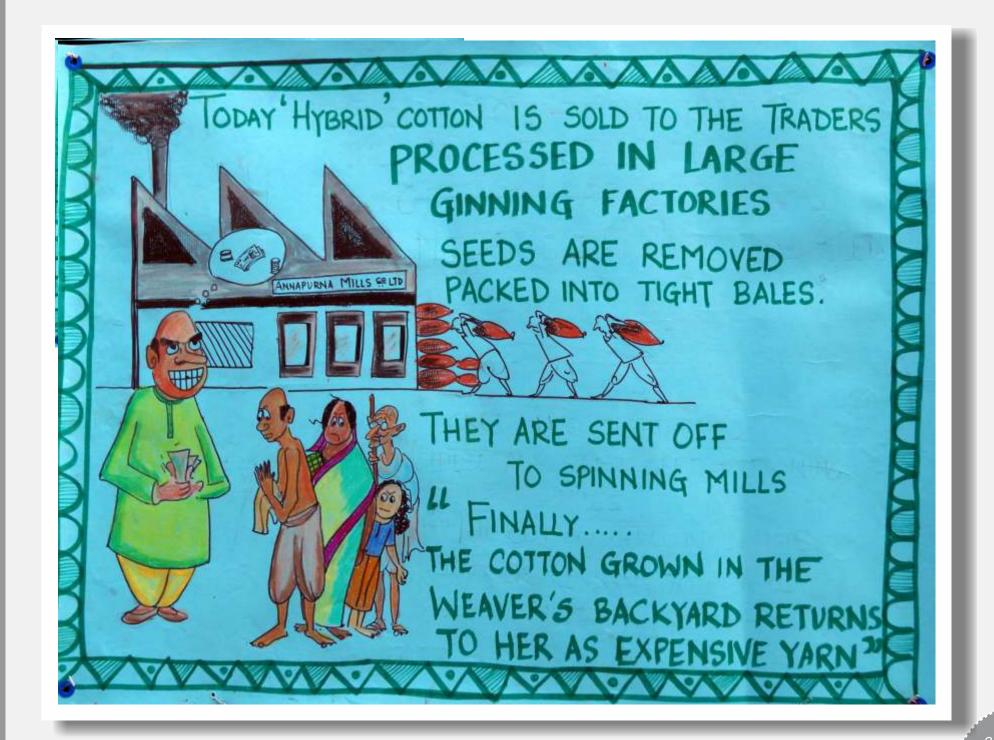


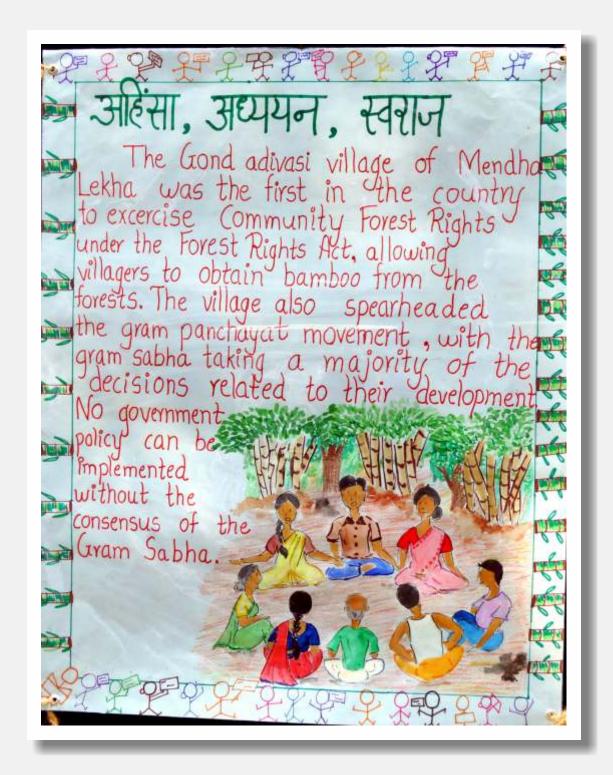


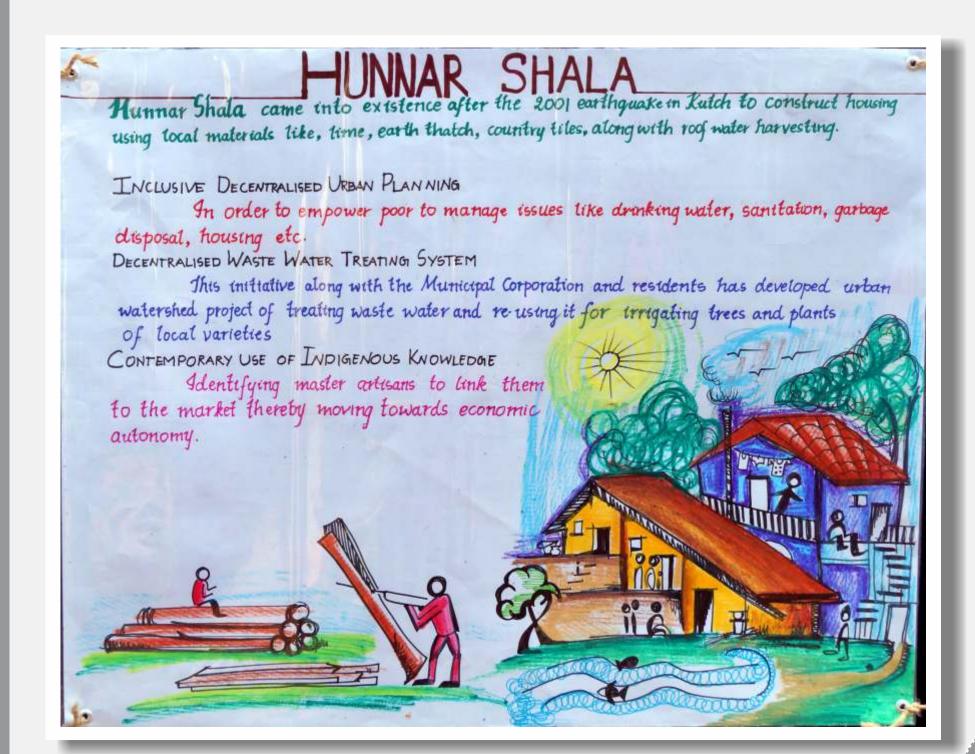


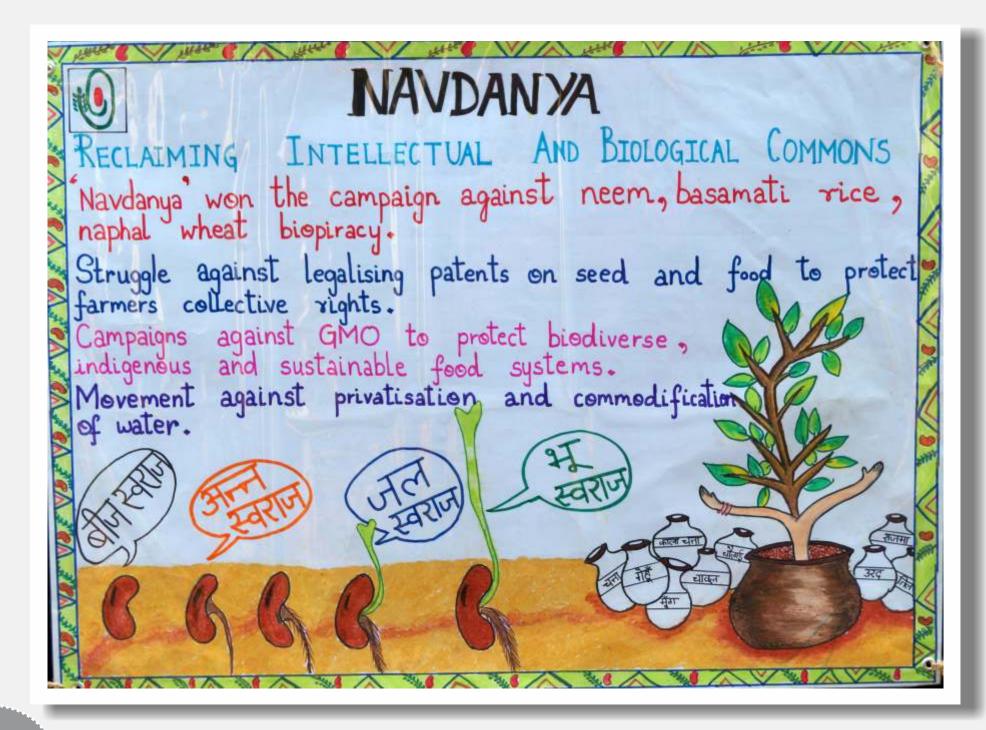


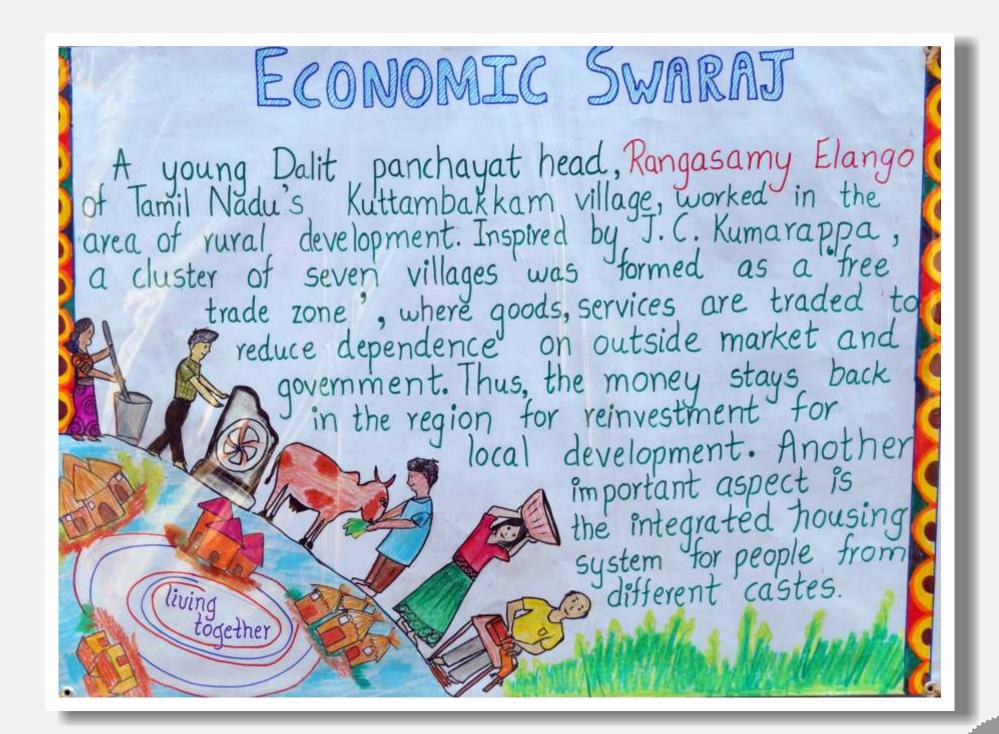


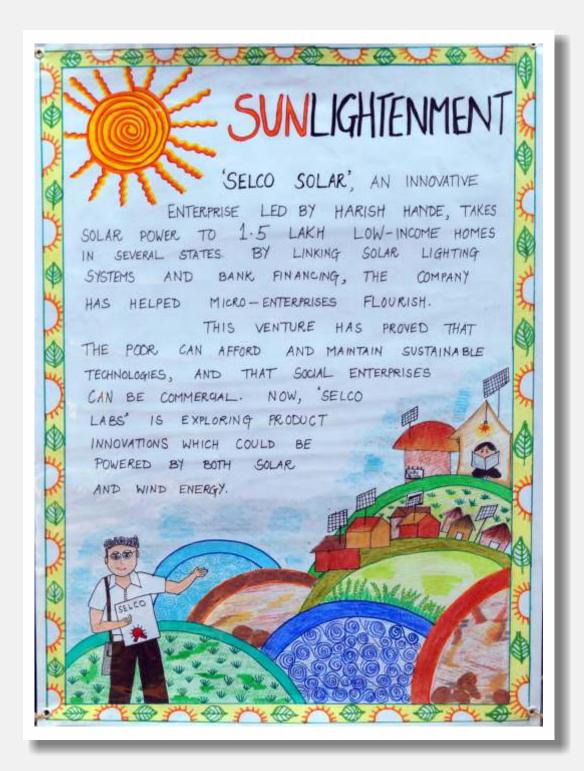


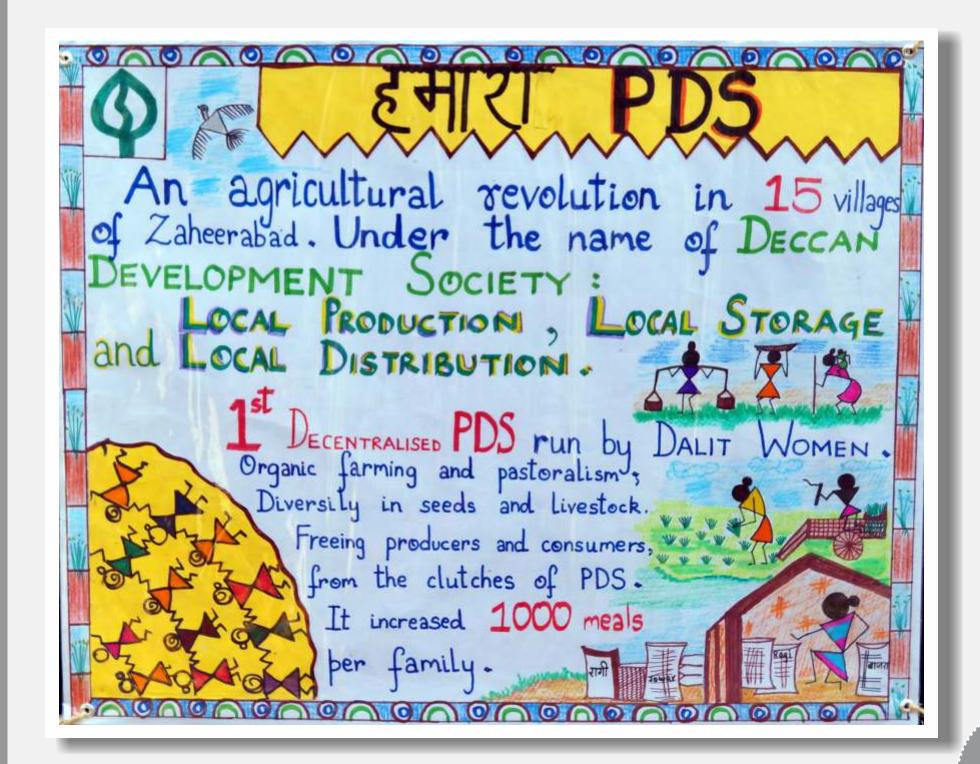


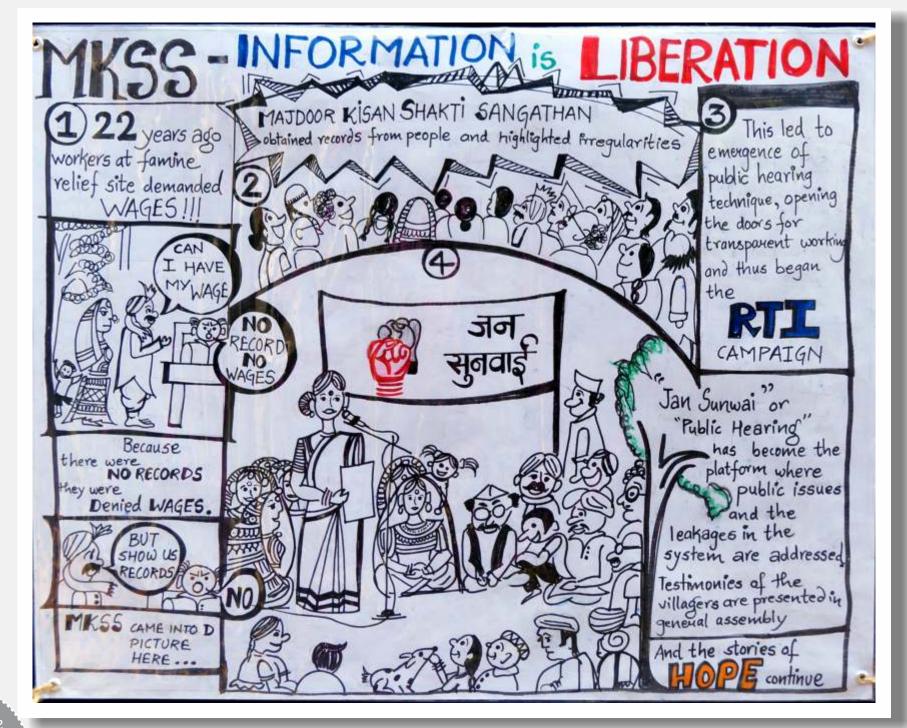


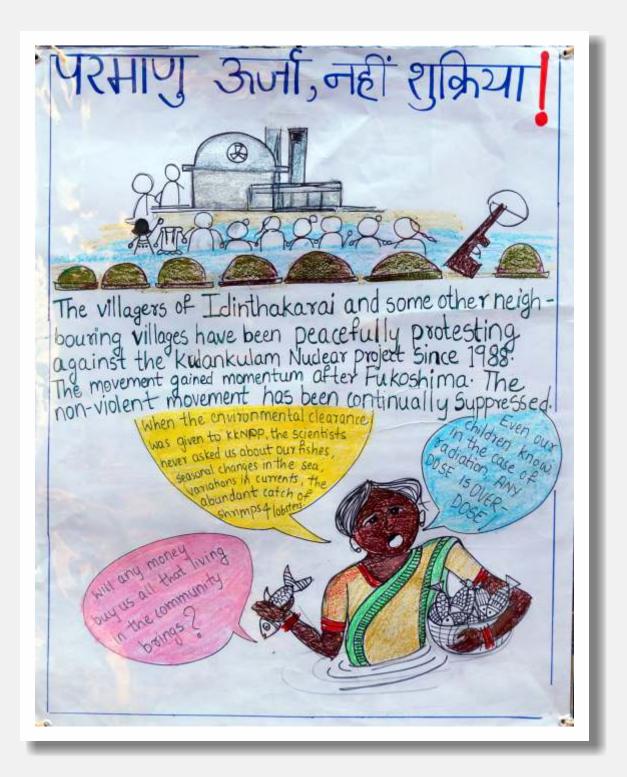












ENVIRONMENT & DEVELOPMENT

"An attitude to life which seeks fulfilment in the single-minded pursuit of wealth - in short, materialism - does not fit into this world, because it contains within itself no limiting principle, while the environment in which it is placed is strictly limited."

E.F. Schumacher, Small Is Beautiful: Economics as if People Mattered

The idea behind this section on development and environment couldn't have been summed up any better than in the following lines of Ramachandra Guha. In June 1992, the then Finance Minister Manmohan Singh said that "I for one am convinced that the new economic policies introduced since July 1991 will provide a powerful stimulus to an accelerated drive both for poverty reduction and the protection of our environment." There are many good things to be said in favour of economic liberalization. It has increased productivity and efficiency, and spawned a new wave of philanthropy. At the same time, the consumer boom it has engendered has come at a very large cost. Air pollution levels in India's cities are among the highest in the world. Most of our rivers are dead, killed by industrial pollution or untreated sewage. Commercial farming has massively depleted groundwater aquifers. And, out of sight of the cities and the middle class, mining projects in central India are leading to a disaster of possibly epic (and certainly tragic) proportions. Politicians in states such as Orissa and Chattisgarh have handed over huge areas of forests and hillside to bauxite and iron ore companies. Although only a fraction of the projects cleared have begun operation, they are already destroying fields and farms, polluting rivers, and sending the tribals they dispossess into the waiting arms of the Naxalites."

This section critically looks at the development model and its implications on the environment and on the marginalised sections of the society. The kind of consumerism that the neo-liberal economic policies has promoted has had a drastic effect on the environment. More and more resources are extracted at an relentlessly, misbalancing the ecology and displacing of the people of the region. Is this the development we want?

Towards a different vision

"Wisdom demands a new orientation of science and technology toward the organic, the gentle, the elegant and beautiful."

E.F. Schumacher, Small Is Beautiful: Economics as if People Mattered

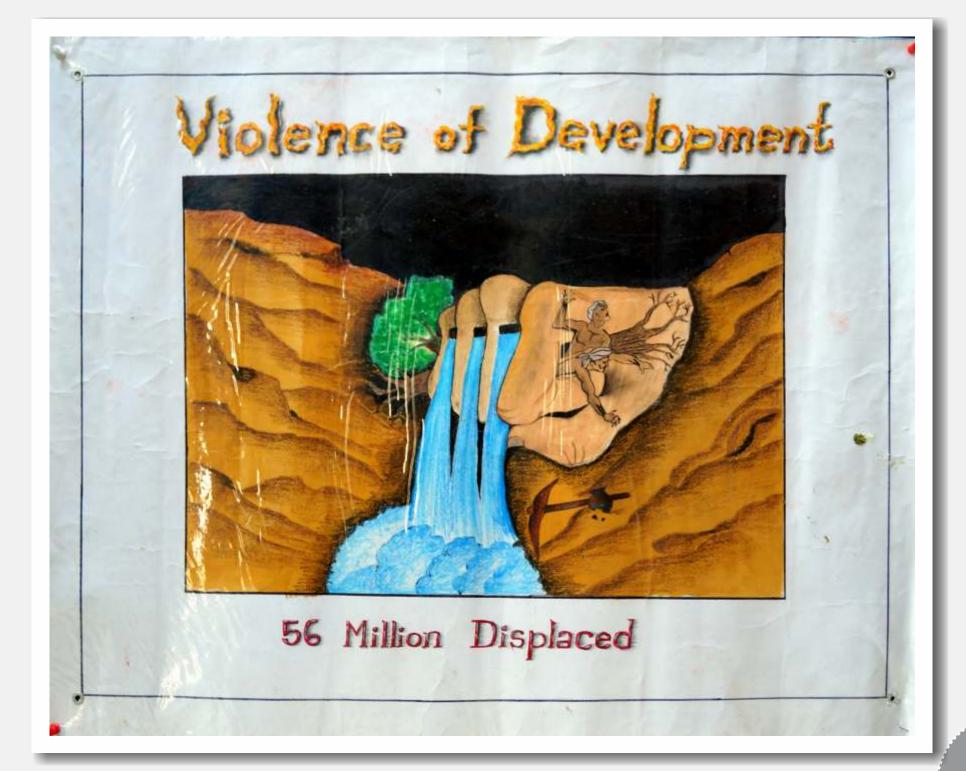
We need to develop a new vision of development itself, one which takes into account the effects of our activities on the environment. Like Schumacher points out, science must progress complementing nature.

Worldwide, we can see such attempts being successfully made. With increased sensitization, more and more people are opting for environment-friendly options wherever they are available. However, they are still looked upon only as 'alternatives' and the mainstream culture remains of the epic proportion of consumerism and waste generation. There is a dire need to promote and make feasible these new models of development.

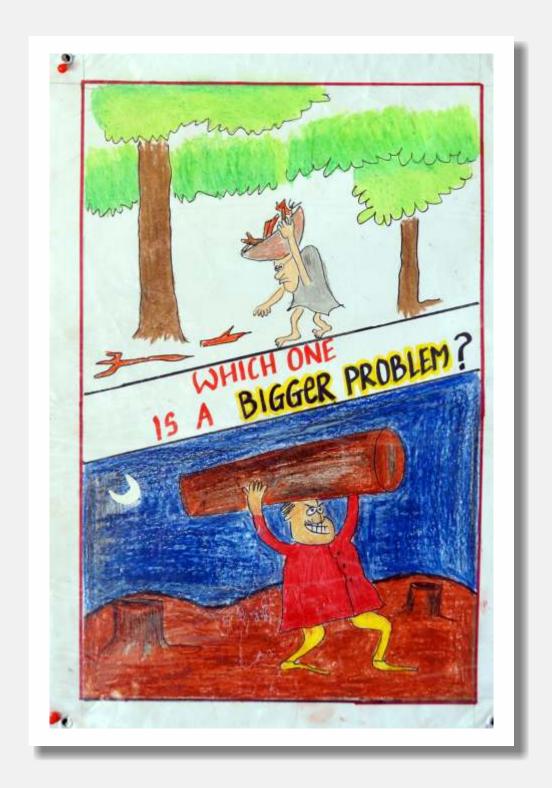
"We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children" - Chief Seattle

The repercussions of our actions today will be greatly in the coming time. To avoid the gloomy picture that we are currently lurking towards, we need to change at the level of an individual and also collectively as a residents of the planet. Realising, and helping others realise, the existence of the hegemonic idea of development is the first step.

Our textbooks speak of the Rs to save environment- Reuse, Recycle, Refuse, Reduce and Resist- however, it is hardly ever taken seriously. We need to get out of our comfort zones and put them into practice. Like Gandhi said, "Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs, but not every man's greed."

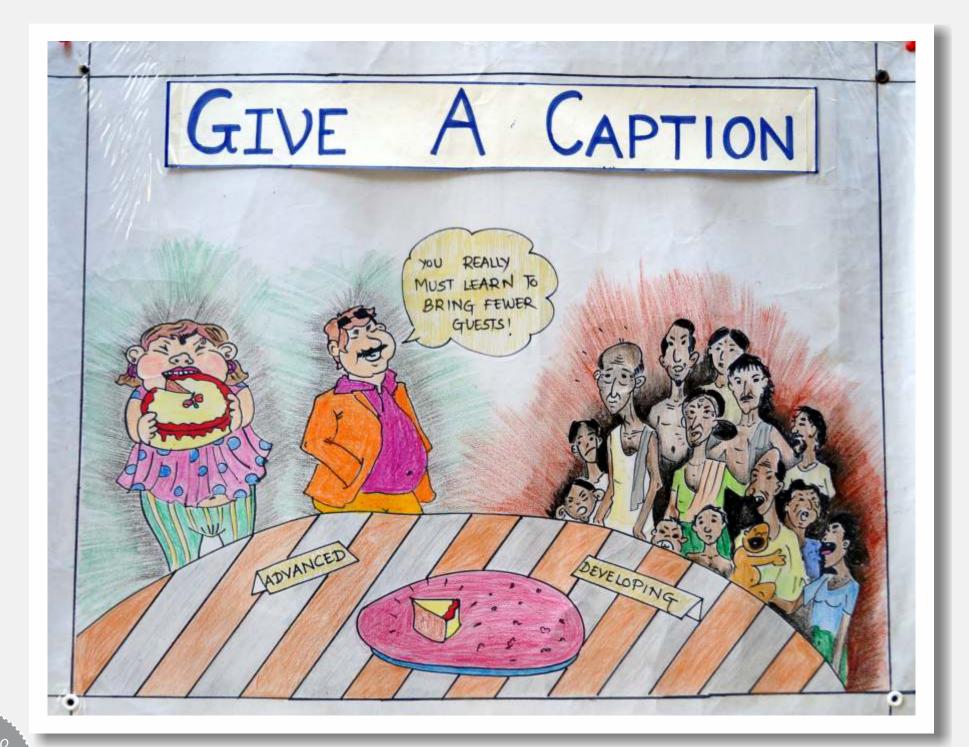












Resource Drain from South to North



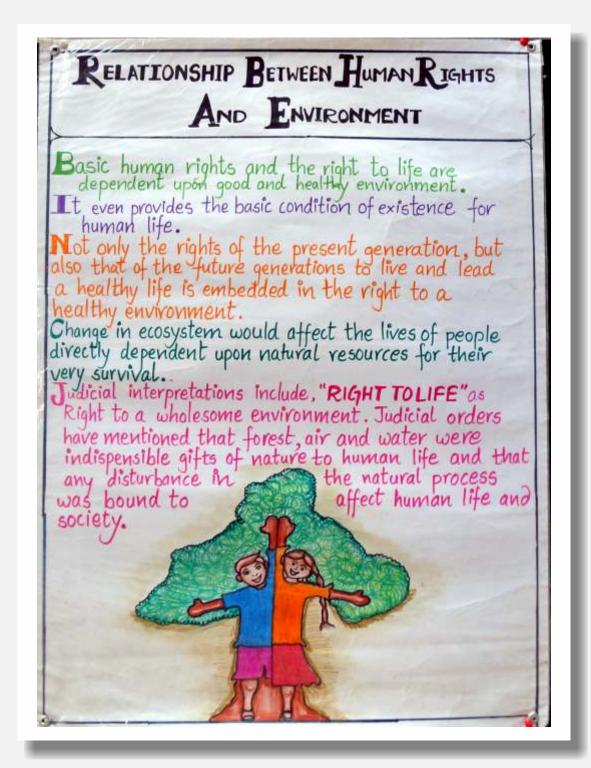
THE RESOURCE DRAIN FROM THE SOUTH TO THE NORTH

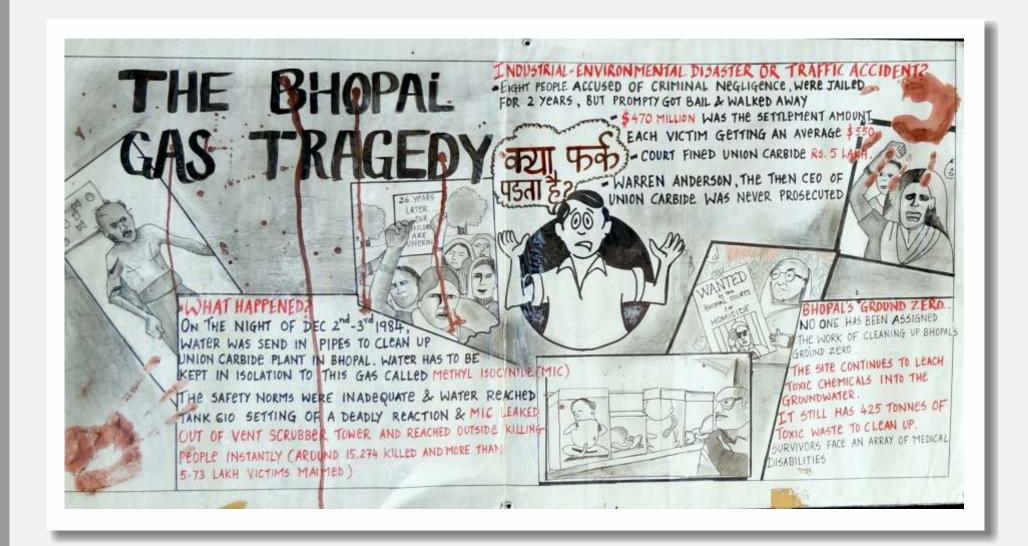
IS THE RESULT OF THE INFERIOR TREATMENT GIVEN TO SOUTH

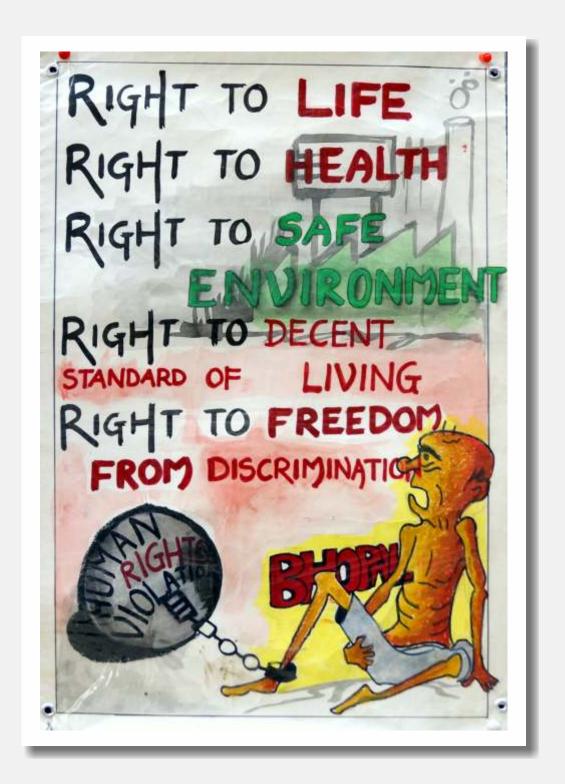
IN THE INTERNATIONAL STRUCTURES OF TRADE, FINANCE, PRODUCTION

TECHNOLOGY AND DISTRIBUTION.

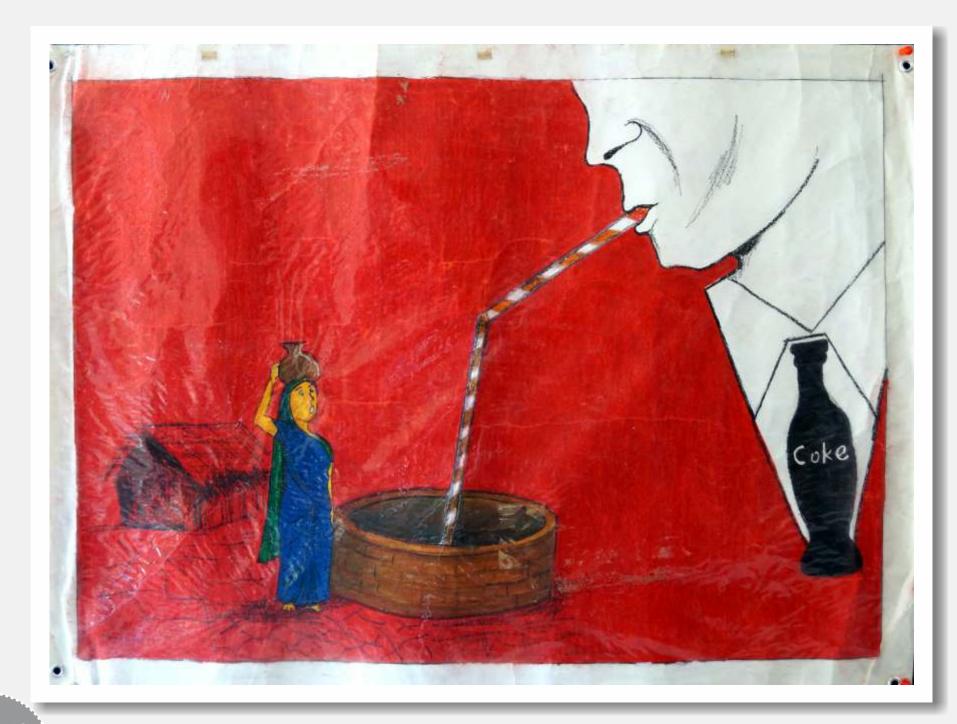
Yogesh S. Sapre M.A. II English

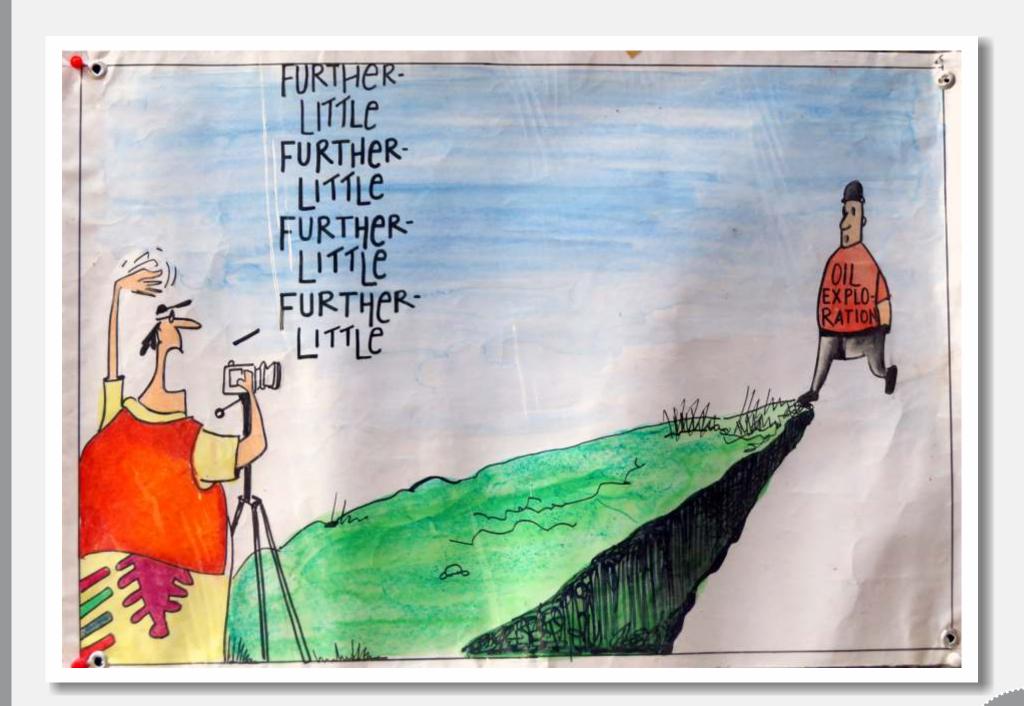




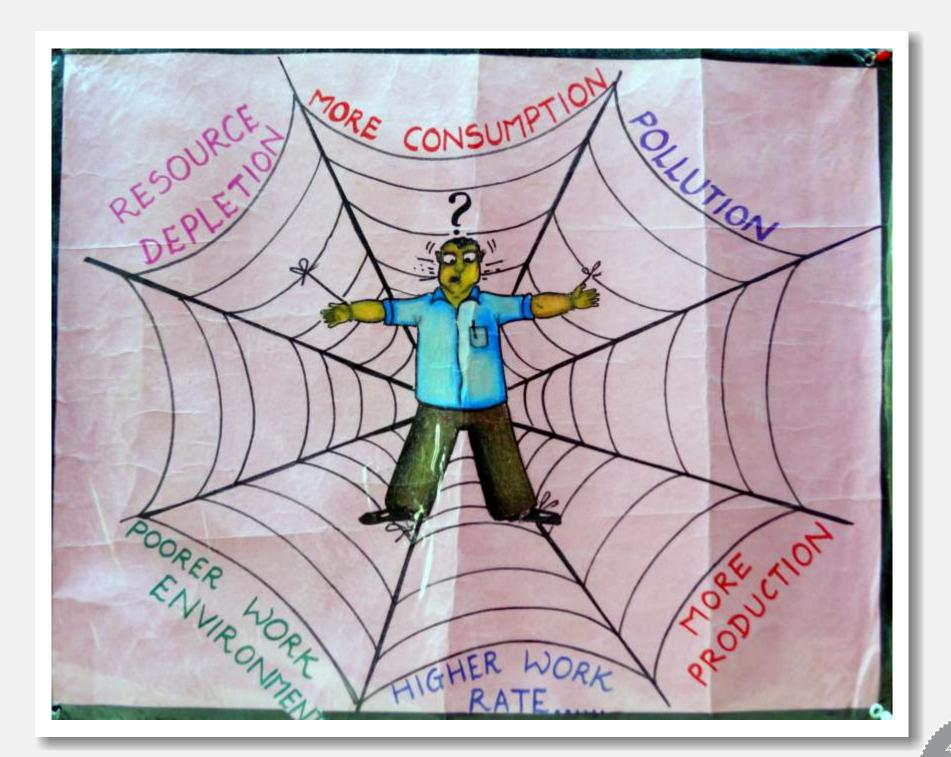






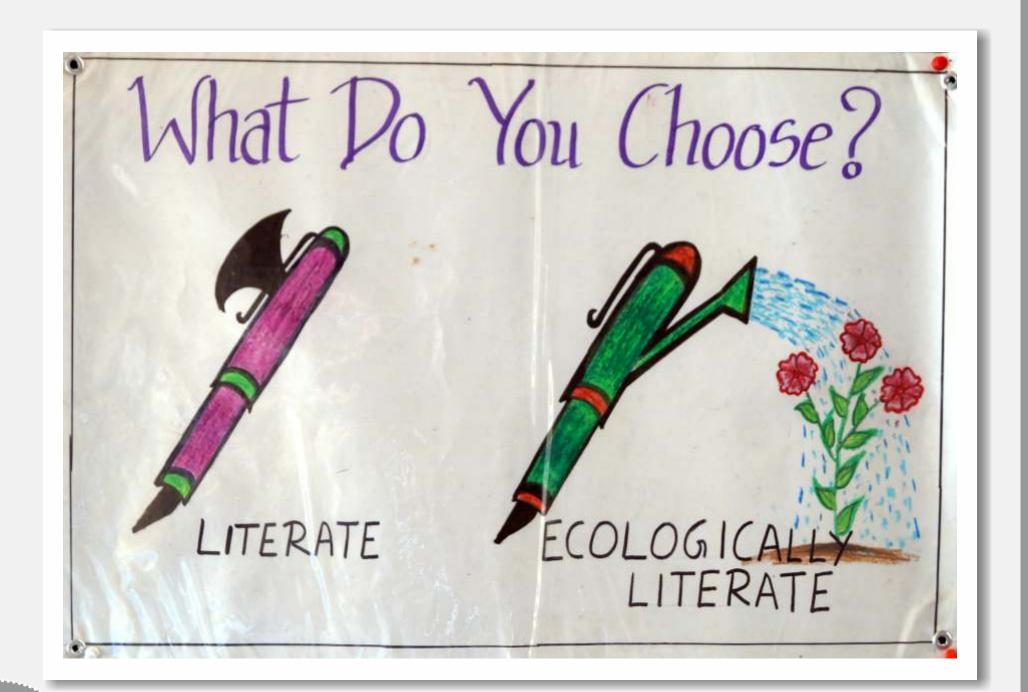
























GENDER

The superiority and domination of men over women is widely considered to be a universal and a natural phenomenon. However, this is a socially constructed phenomenon which takes place covertly, and sometimes overtly, right from a person's birth. The society burdens both women and men with stereotypes. They form hegemonic images of the ideal man and the ideal woman forcing people to strive towards them. Weak, emotional, soft, submissive, non-working are characteristics associated with women and strong, aggressive, practical, rough and bread-earner are those associated with men. In this process lies the birth of gender disparity, a process that draws boundaries and puts restrictions on people. Through our posters we have tried to question and break these stereotypes.

The Omnipotent Patriarchy

Patriarchy has become so deep-rooted that it seems natural now. "Patriarchy is in the air, it is everywhere" (says Anand Pawar of Samyak.) From the structure of the family to the policies of the state, from societal norms to music and films, everything stinks of patriarchy.

Domestic work and the responsibility of the household are put upon as a duty on the woman. However, this is not recognised as work since it doesn't pay. There is a wide-spread believe that women work less, which statistics show, is not true. Women who work outside their home are not treated on par with men and are even paid less. Also, there is a double burden of working and managing the household that falls on the woman. The invisibalisation of women's work must stop and whether or where to work must be a woman's own choice. Housework and rearing of child must be the joint responsibility of man and woman.

Religion too exploits women. Personal laws, which are different for people of different religion, do not give equal rights to everyone. Many practices and festivals also highlight the patriarchal nature of religion. The state excludes women while making policies. Most people who are part of the state machinery are of a patriarchal mindset and hence the state machinery is also not supportive and at times is even exploitive.

The market creates perception of the perfect woman and man and sells products by creating and manipulating their insecurities. Women's body has been commidified to such an extent that even billboards of luxury houses highlight photos of models instead of houses.

Violence against women and sexual harassment

Crimes against women have been rising. There is a rape every 21 minutes, a dowry death every 63 minutes, sexual harassment every 9 minutes and so on. It makes it pretty evident that India is not a woman-friendly place at all. Being a "man" is to be aggressive and dominant and hold disdain for women. In most cases, the society puts the blame on the victim. For example, things like "she must have given some signs", "Her clothes must have been provoking" and "she must have given her consent" are commonly said.

This section, therefore, comes in response to such baseless claims and breaks these myths. It also aims at explaining what all constitutes sexual harassment and how it continues to happen in our society.

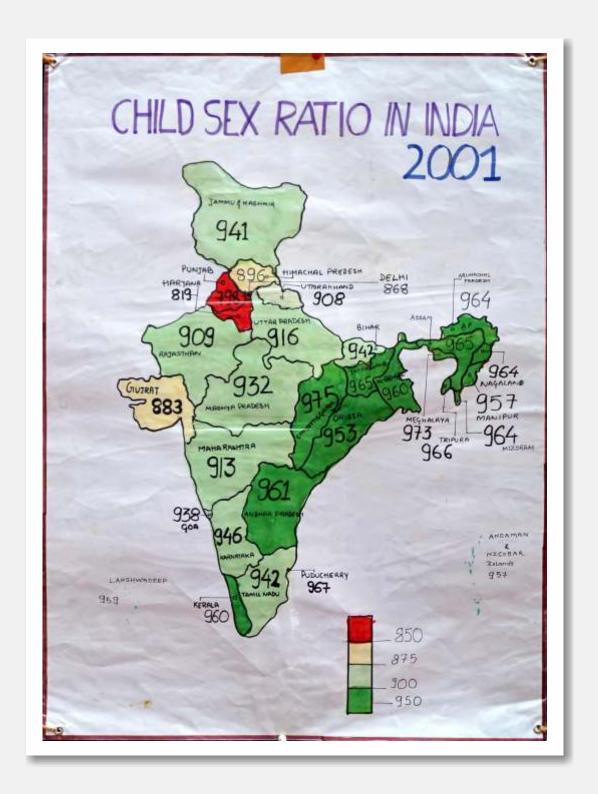
However, there are ways to deal with the increasing crime against women. There is need of organisation of women and men to fight for an egalitarian society. Being assertive and confident is very important while dealing with such cases. Many empowering laws like the PCPNDT Act(2005), Protection of Women from domestic violence Act(2005), Criminal Law Amendment Act(2013) have come up and are very important legal tools. Many help-lines too have come up to provide necessary help.

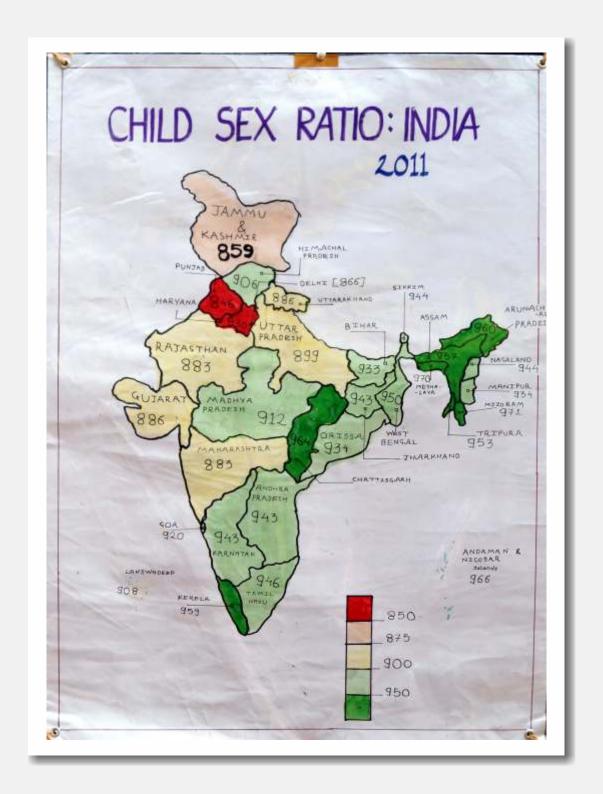
Towards a more equal society

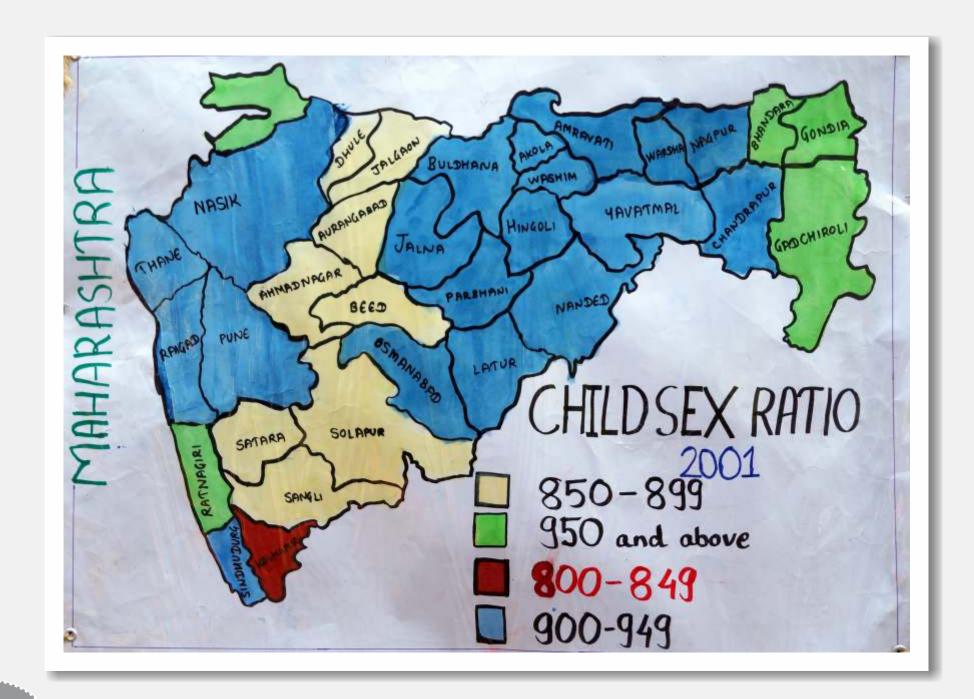
"I measure the progress of a community by the degree of progress which women have achieved."

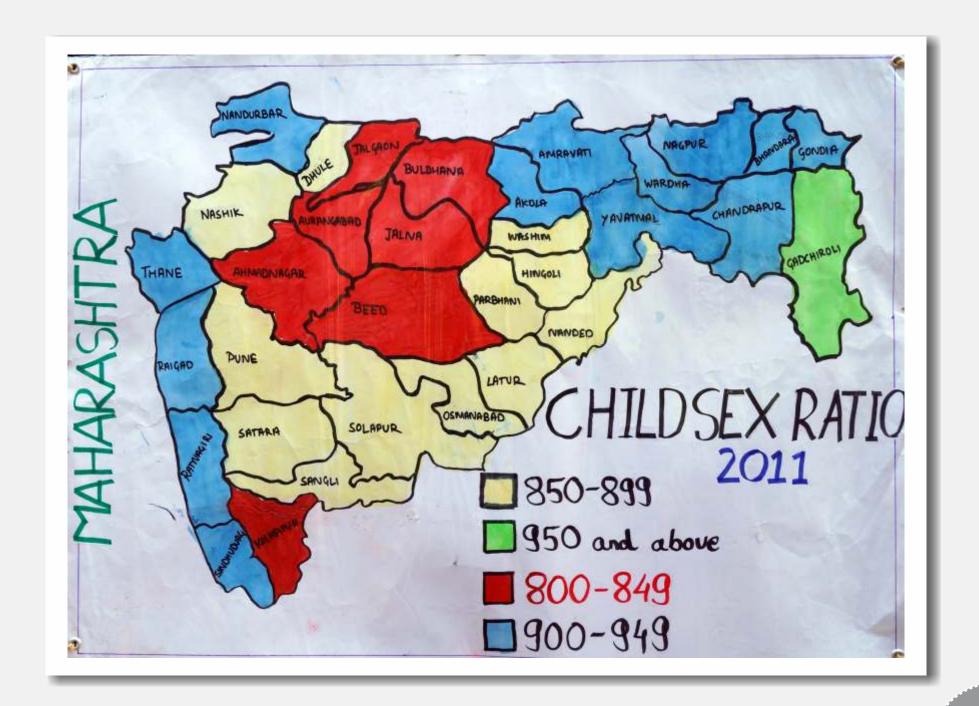
B.R. Ambedkar

That we are still a long way from that society is completely true. Gender is a complex issue and since it becomes so normalised, it is very hard to comprehend. Breaking gender stereotypes, questioning hierarchy and authority, mobilising against crimes against women are long processes which need continuous momentum to carry on. We must strive to this end.

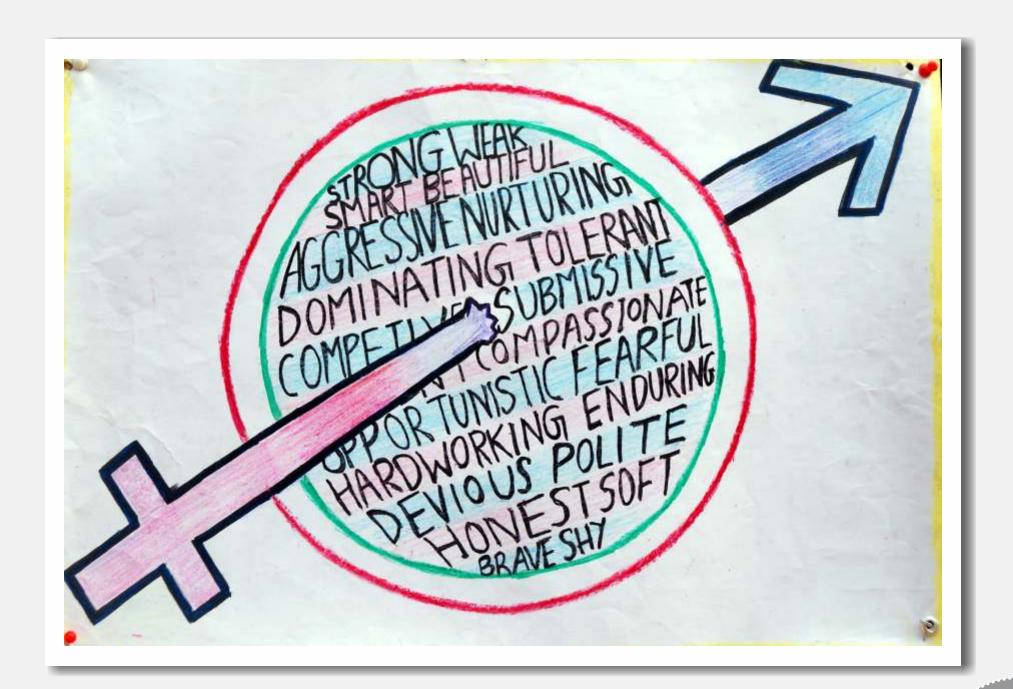


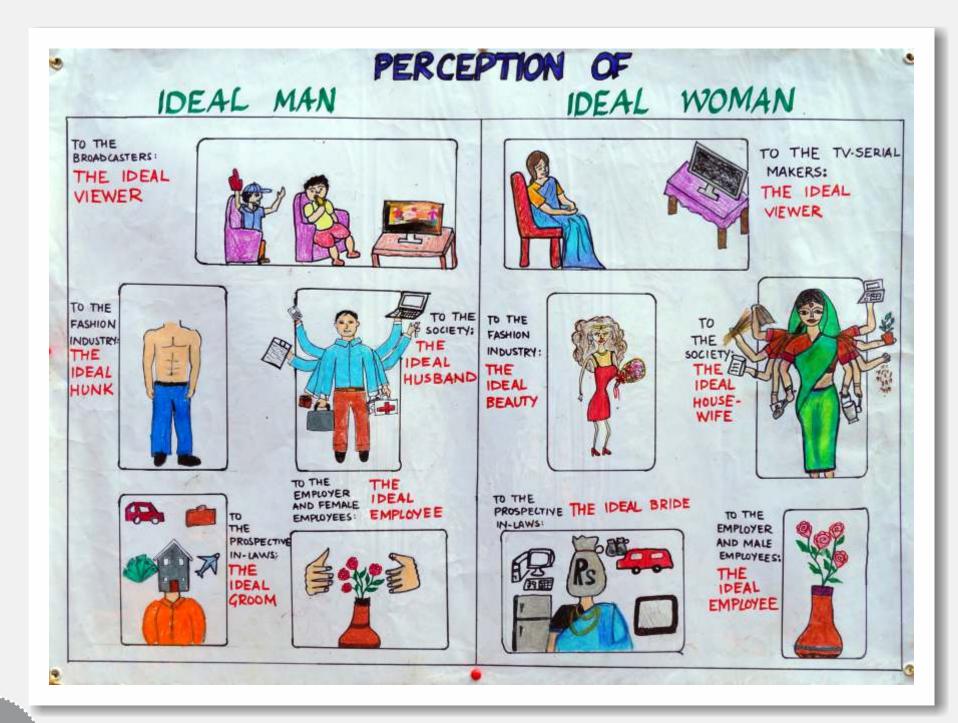












FOR LVERY WOMAN For every woman who is tired of acting weak When she knows she is strong. There is a man who is tired of appearing strong When he feels vulnerable. For every woman who is tired of being called "an emotional female." There is a man who is denied the right to week and be gentle. For every woman who feels tied down by her child, There is a man who is denied the full pleasure of parenthood. For every woman who takes a step towards her own liberation, There is a man who finds that the way to freedom has been made a little easier.







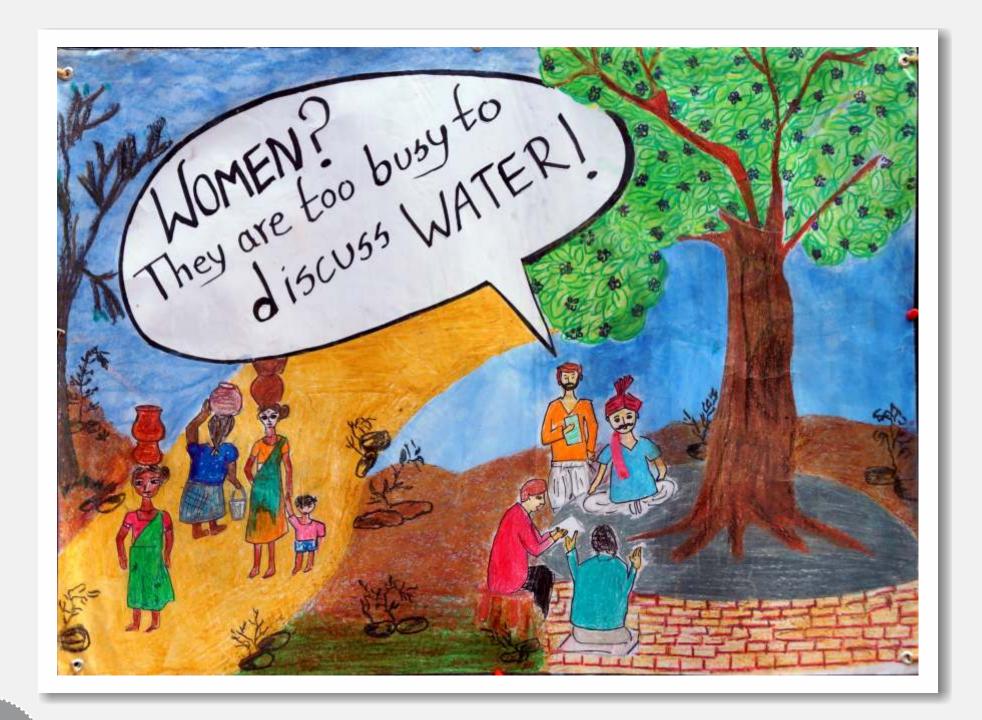


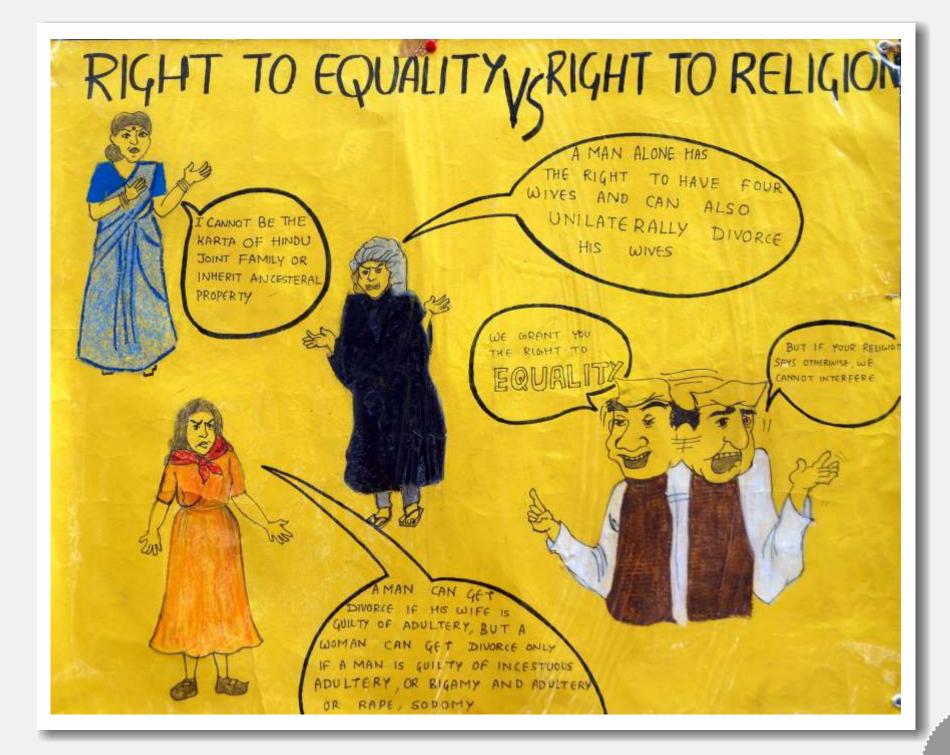




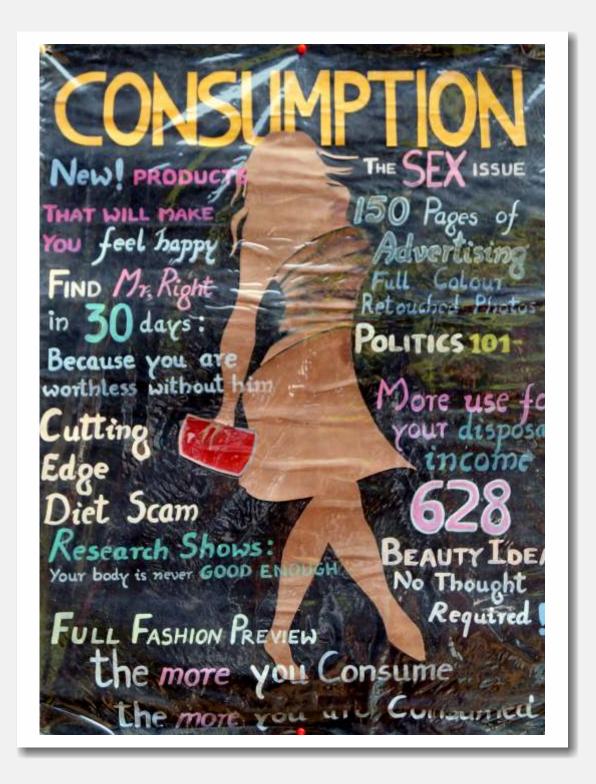


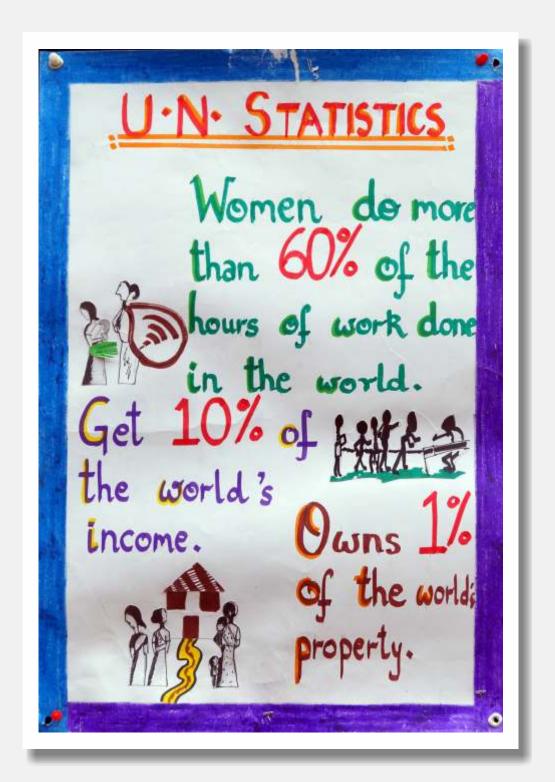


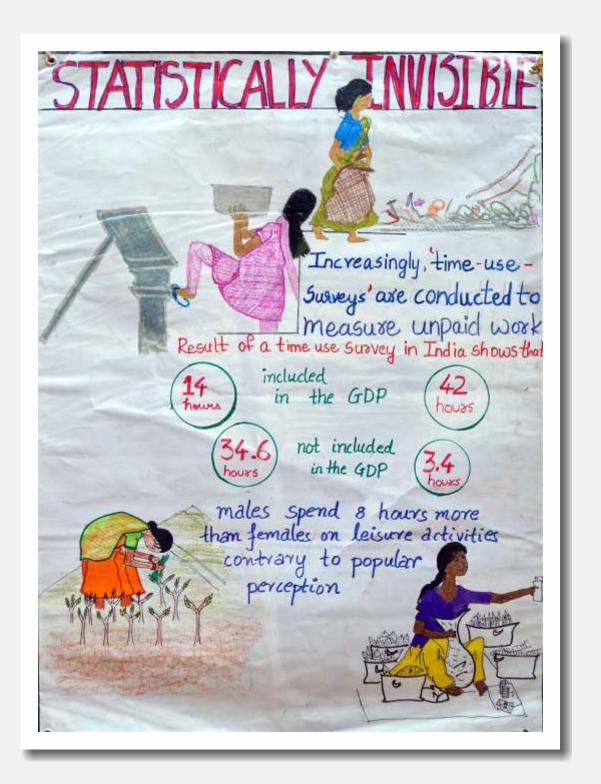


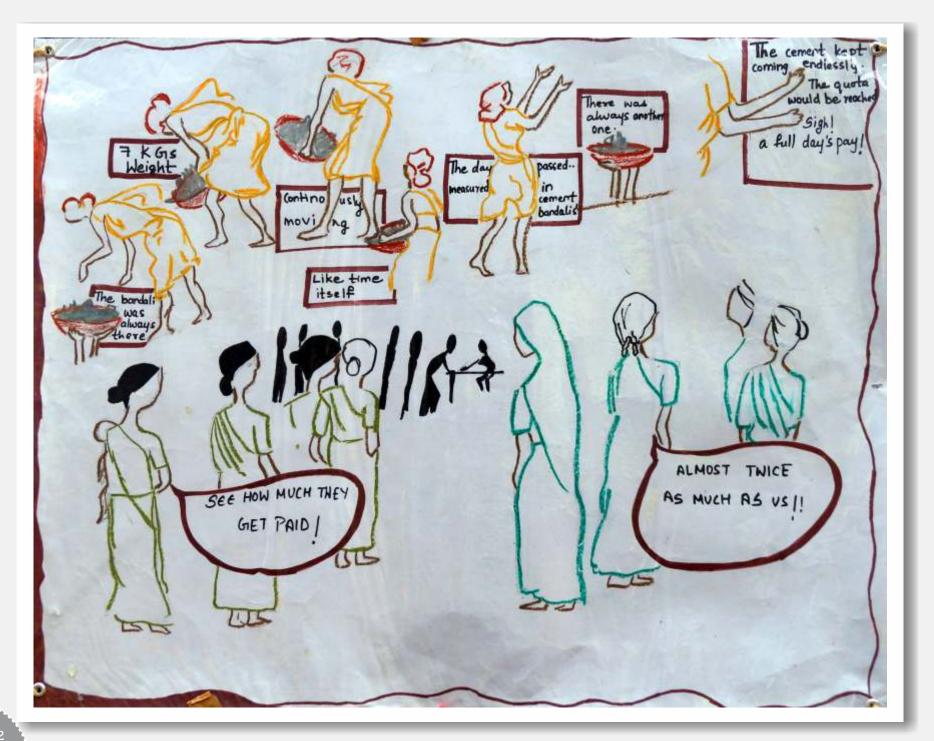




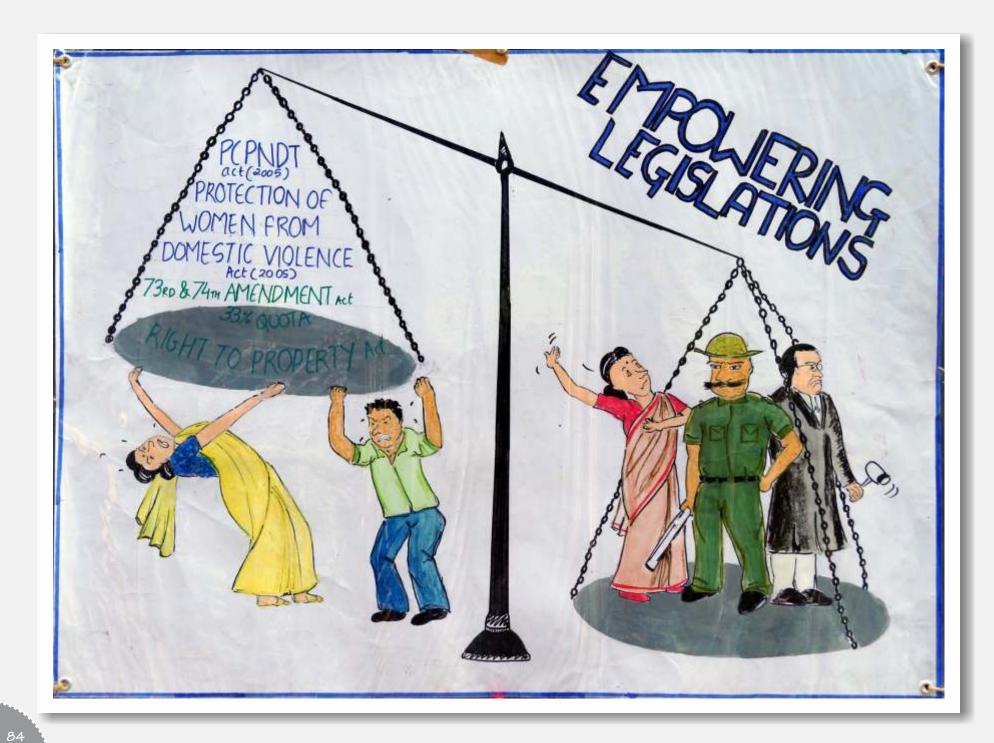




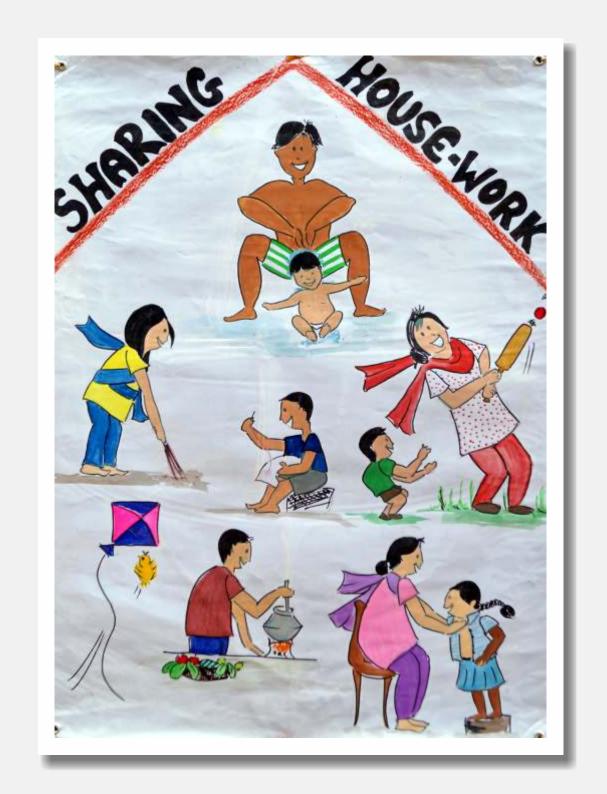






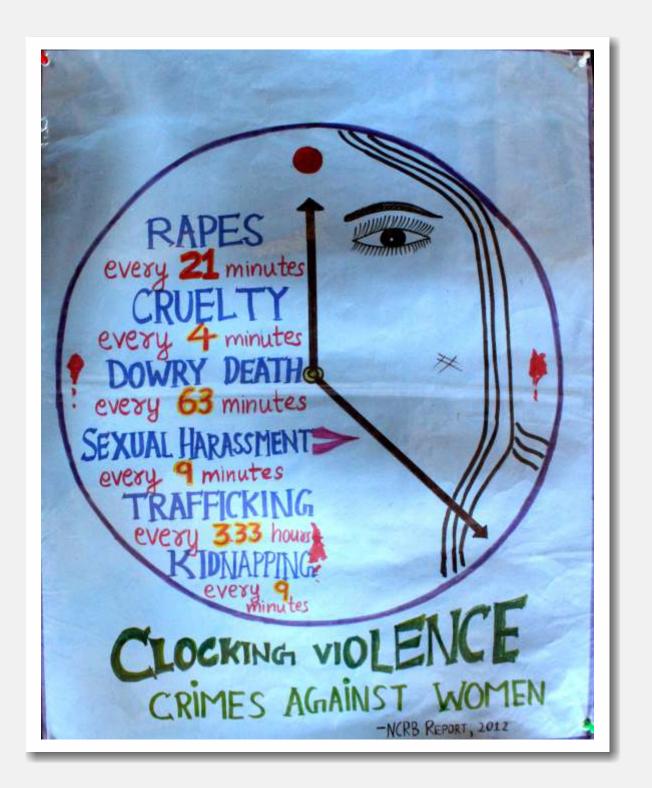


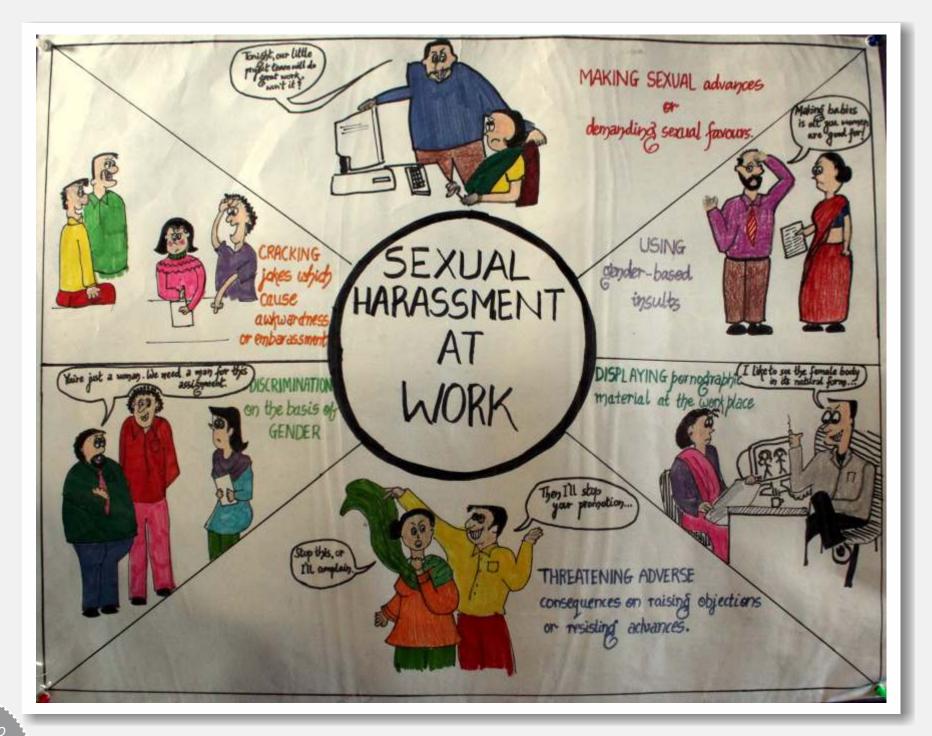






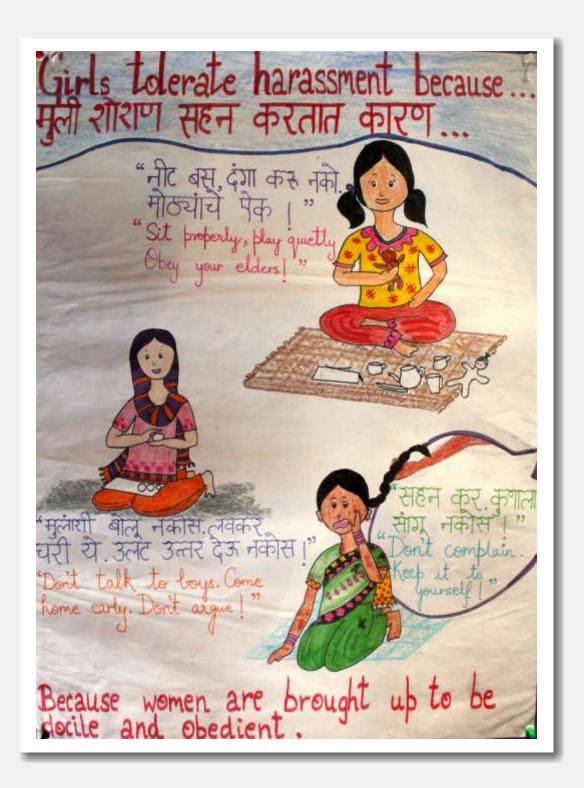
SEXUAL HARASSMENT



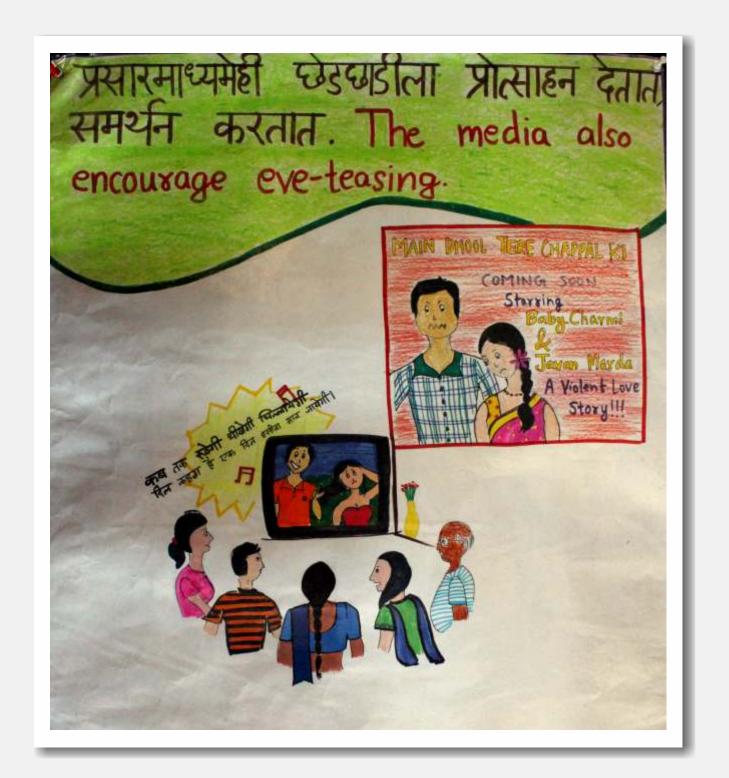


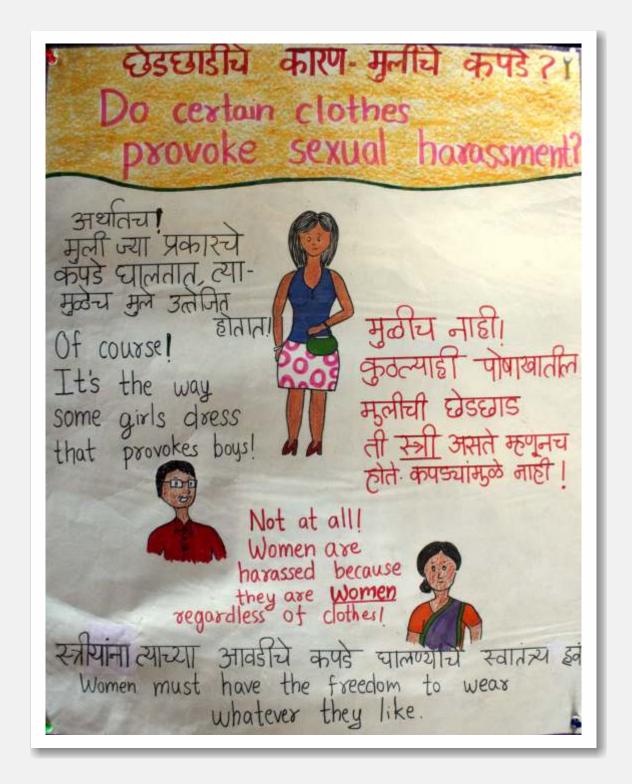


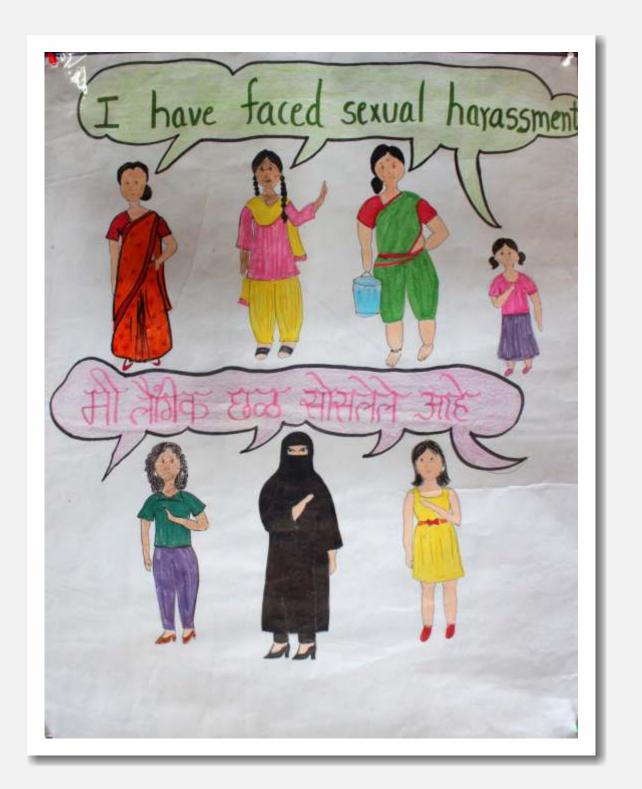






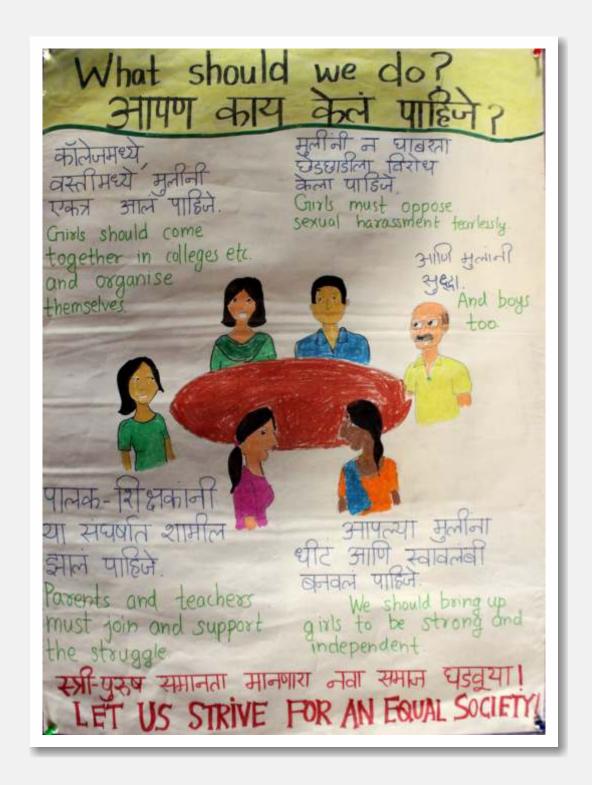














RIMINAL LAW (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2013 The Act criminalises RAPE, SEXUAL HARASSMENT, STALKING, VOYEURISM, DISROBING (all of which are now gender-specific), as well as attempt to acid attack & acid attack. RAPE is defined as 'benetration of benis, or of any object or any part of body to any extent into the vagina, mouth, wrethra or anus of another person or making another person do so; applying mouth or touching of private parts? VOYEURISM constitutes watching a woman in a private act, or where her private parts are exposed. STALKING is defined as following, attempt to contact and contacting despite clear indication of disinterest, monitoring her using any form of electronic communication." PROCEDURAL CHANGES: in Lack of physical resistance is immaterial for constituting an offence. (ii) Victimis character plays no part in the consideration. iii) No consent is presumed to sexual intercourse is proved & victim states in court that, she did not consent. (in Hospital staff must treat viction & the police must file a FIR. If hey do not, they are liable to be bunished



HELPLINES TO

Women grievance redressal-for any query-02026208341

Call in emergency:

Control Room - 26126296, 26208250, 100

Exchange-26122202

Crime alext - 26112222

Women and children helpline - 1091, 26050191

Senior Citizen - 2611103

CASTE

In India, discrimination along caste lines has been happening since a long time. Discriminatory practices have modernised themselves. After India's independence, casteism was constitutionally abolished and the right to equality was entitled to all the citizens. Andre Beteille, in 'India's destiny not caste in stone' argues that "caste in fact is dying down, that it lives on mostly in consciousness, and that this is a result of the manipulations of the media during elections". But is it so? In the following section, we have highlighted how caste is still relevant today and has found different forms to percolate into the society.

We have divided this section into 4 parts:

I.Atrocities committed against Dalits

The biggest proof perhaps of the existence of caste is the appalling rate of atrocities committed against Dalits. Every day, 3 Dalit women are raped, 2 Dalits are murdered, 3 Dalit houses are burnt and 11 Dalits are beaten up (according to IDSN). Even though the Prevention of Atrocities Act (against SC/ST, 1989) exists, the atrocities keep rising.

Because of this discrimination, Dalit Panther and parties based on Dalit identity like BSP came into existence, who worked towards upward mobility of Dalits by asserting their rights. This started undermining the caste pride of powerful castes, leading to more atrocities being committed against Dalits.

2. Caste in everyday life

"Caste has killed public spirit. Caste has destroyed the sense of public charity. Caste has made public opinion impossible. Virtue has become caste-ridden, and morality has become caste-bound."

- Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

'Caste is reservation', 'caste only concerns the dalits', and many such ideas are quite prevalent in the urban, middle-class elite. They deem themselves to be above parochial identities like caste. But just by ignoring or not acknowledging caste, we don't reach a casteless society. The upper castes do not recognise the privileges they get and the disadvantages the lower castes face. To open our eyes and to acknowledge that caste is still here and not somewhere 'out there' is the first step towards working for its annihilation.

Casteism is still widely practised in cities too, however, its form has changed. Even our language is casteist at times. Using bhangi and chamar (which refers to a specific caste) as derogatory terms is an example of it. Asking for the surnames of the people, ridiculing reservations for lower castes by calling Dalit professionals inefficient and unworthy, caste-specific matrimonial advertisements are a few more common practices taking place in urban areas. Even in educational institutions like Fergusson College and S.P. College, where the student composition is heterogeneous, peer circles get formed on the basis of caste. This is because a person's caste can even be identified on the basis of his dialect and surname. This realisation should transform itself into a space for meaningful dialogue between them.

3. Dignity of labour.

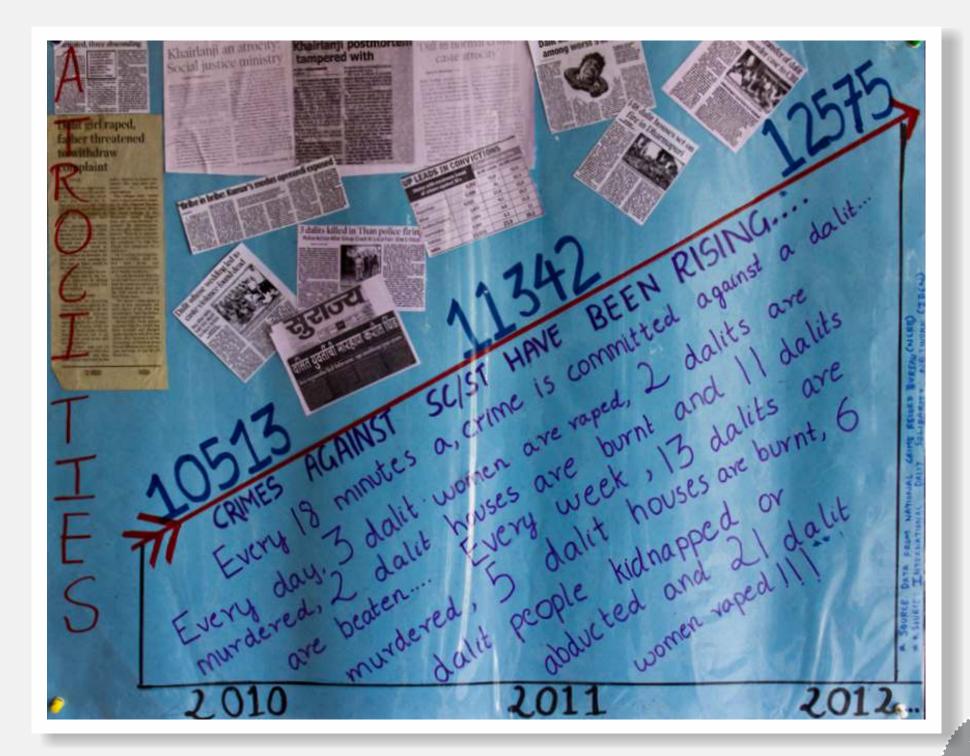
This section has been inspired and has deeply borrowed from Kancha Ilaiah's 'Turning the pot, Tilling the earth'. There is a dire need to recognise, appreciate and dignify the labour done by the so-called lower sections of the society. Traditionally, people from the lower castes have been linked to "dirty" and "unworthy" work. This work involved cultivating crops, washing clothes, making utensils, weaving clothes, disposing corpses of both human and animals etc. These are essential for the survival of the society. Instead of acknowledging the science, the techniques and the tools they developed for it and according it the status it deserves, their work is condemned.

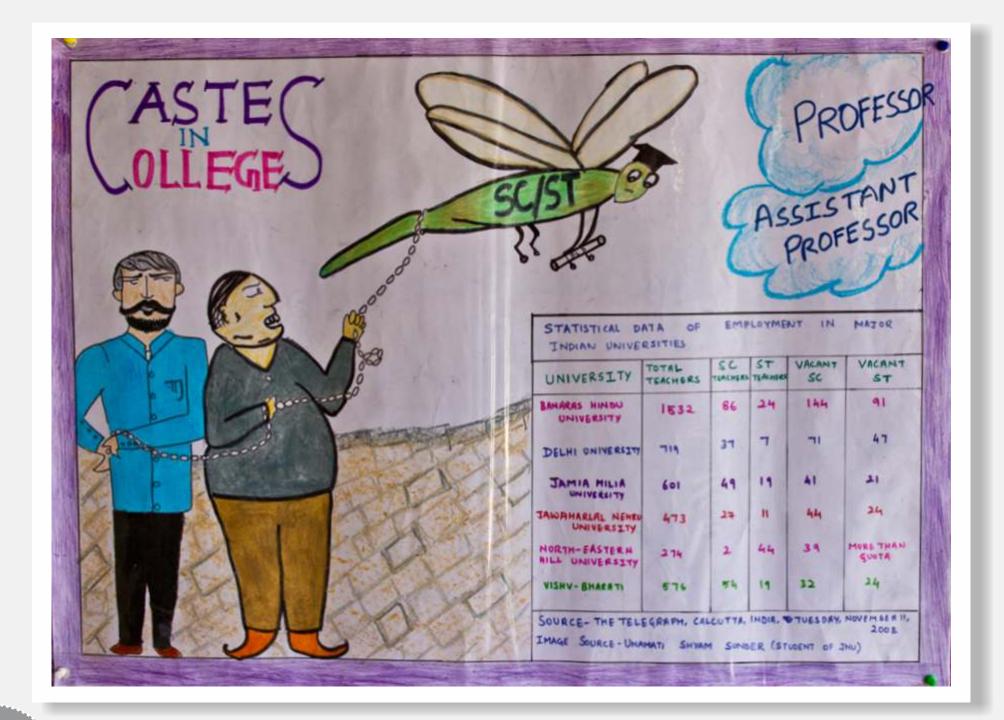
However, by saying this we do not mean that only certain castes should continue working in these professions. Everyone must have the right to choose their profession, like the constitution guarantees.

4. Success stories

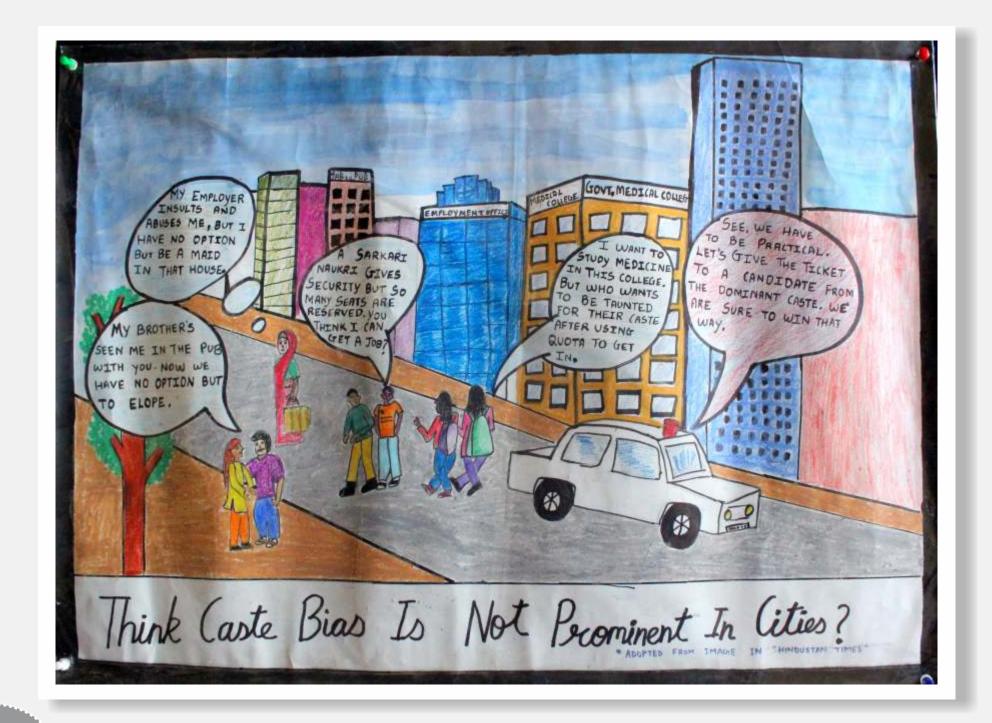
Although caste discrimination still exists and atrocities against dalits are rising, there has been some upward mobility, heightened awareness and increased assertion. In the Tsundur massacre case, the dalits finally got justice after the perpetuators of caste atrocities were punished by the court. In the economic sector, DICCI (Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry) was set up to help get Dalits into businesses. Now there are 30 Dalit millionaires in India. Reservation has been a strong tool for upward mobilisation of dalits. Although the benefits have not reached to all the sections uniformly, it must be given due credit. Different organisations like Navsarjan Trust have emerged to fight for Dalit rights. Some of these successes are the outcomes of the Dalit movement.

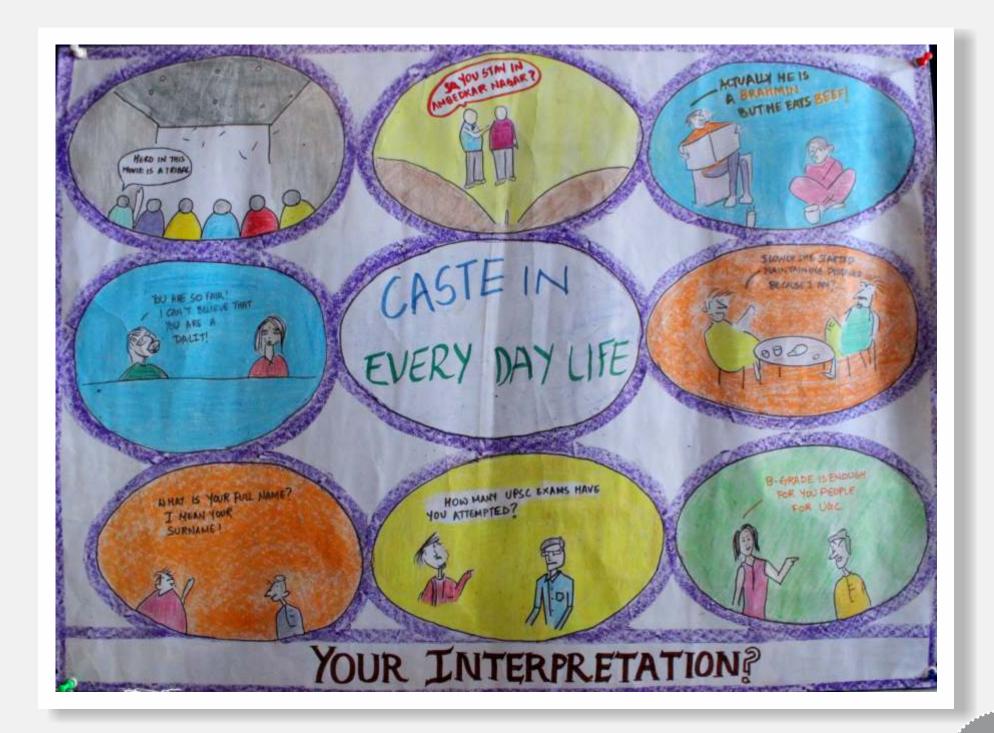
Although this is the story on one side, we must never lose sight of the final goal-'the annihilation of caste'.

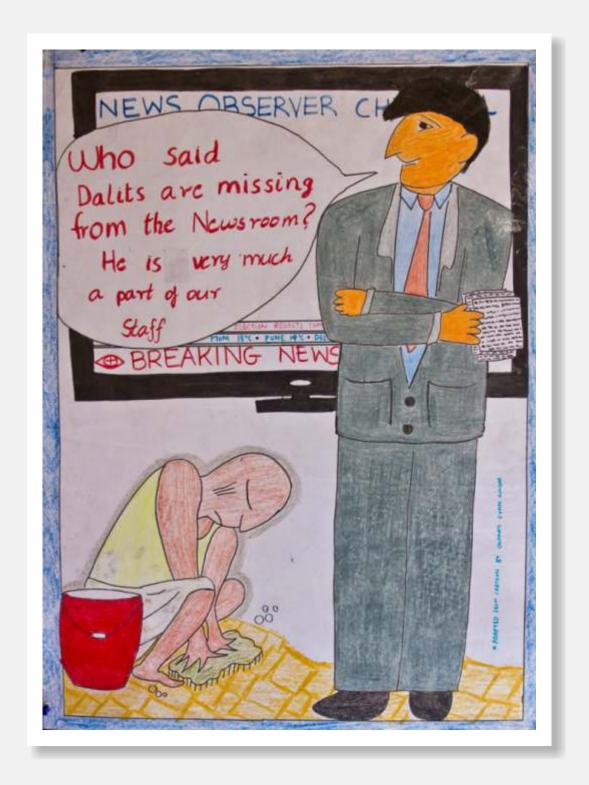


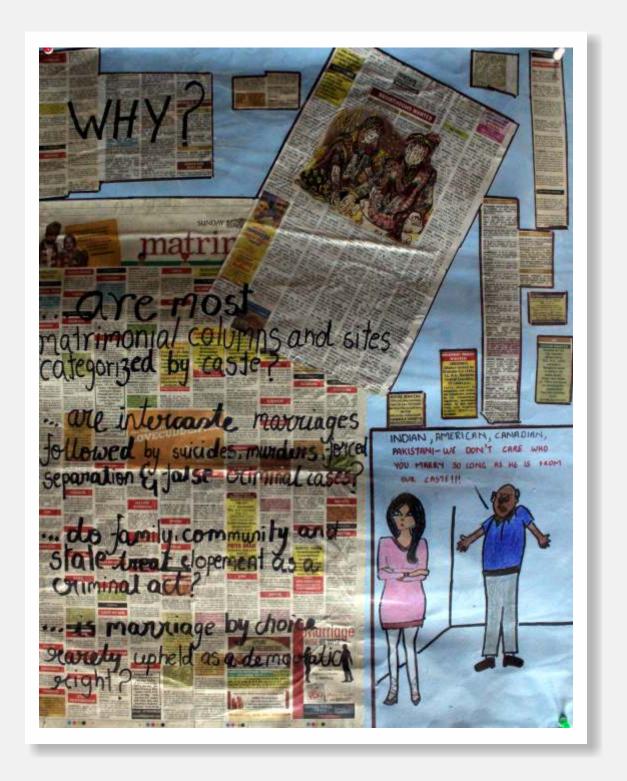


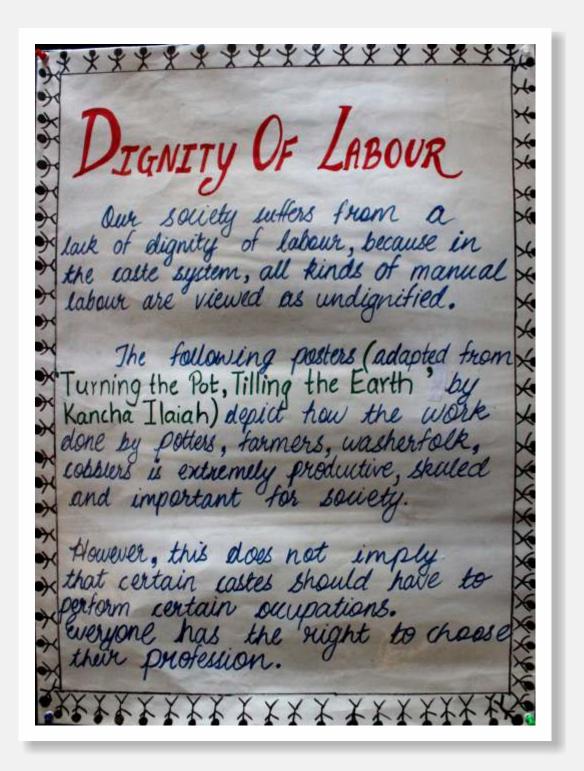




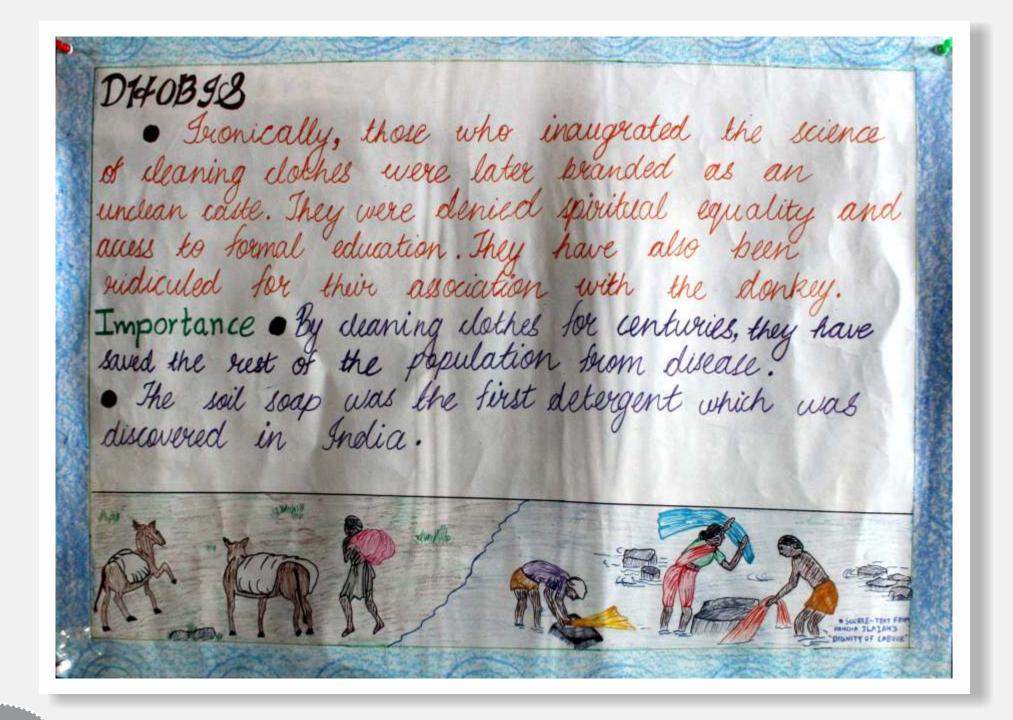












FARMERS The tillers, who yoked the indigenous bulls and buffaloes, have not been regarded as worthy of respect. CONTRIBUTION - They provide us with food. The cereals, pulses, vegetables, fruits that form our staple diet are products of agricultural labour. They produced various crops and improvised agricultural techniques. Even then, they are regarded as unintelligent people and their labour, undiquified.



DEFYING CASTE: SUCESS STORIES

According to the Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, there are over 30 Dalit crorepatis in India. They rose to riches against all odds, even illiteracy. These successful entrepreneurs are also now recruiting Dalits in their companies.

In 2011, DICCI set up a US\$100 million venture capital fund for Dalits that is scheduled to open up for business in a few months.



Kalpana Saroj is the daughter of Dalit police constable in Akola district of Maharashtra Todayshe heads a ₹3000 crore business enterprise. Saroj was one of the five women entrepreneurs of the first trade fair organised by the DICCI who have fought not only social prejudices but also gender bias.

A lifeline in the dalit battle for land rights

AVSARJAN TRUS



STARTED IN 1989 IN GUJARAT TO FIGHT FOR DALIT RIGHTS O



· 165 Women's Right distaicts.

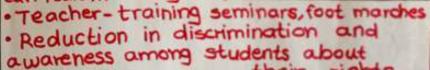
·Training programmes, surveys, intervention & monitoring cases of

· Women are now aware and active participants. curriculum activity cente They now stand up for their rights and integrity.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS SCHOOL CHILDREN

· Discriminatory practice Councils established in 18 of making Daut kids eat separately minimized in 49 primary schools.

· Bhim-Shalas (extra





MANUAL SCAVENGING

Awareness training programms, surveys:

· Rehabilitation programmes and

helping in obtaining NREGA

· Many children have given up the dirty work and started going to scholol.

MINIMUM WAGE IMPLEMENTATION

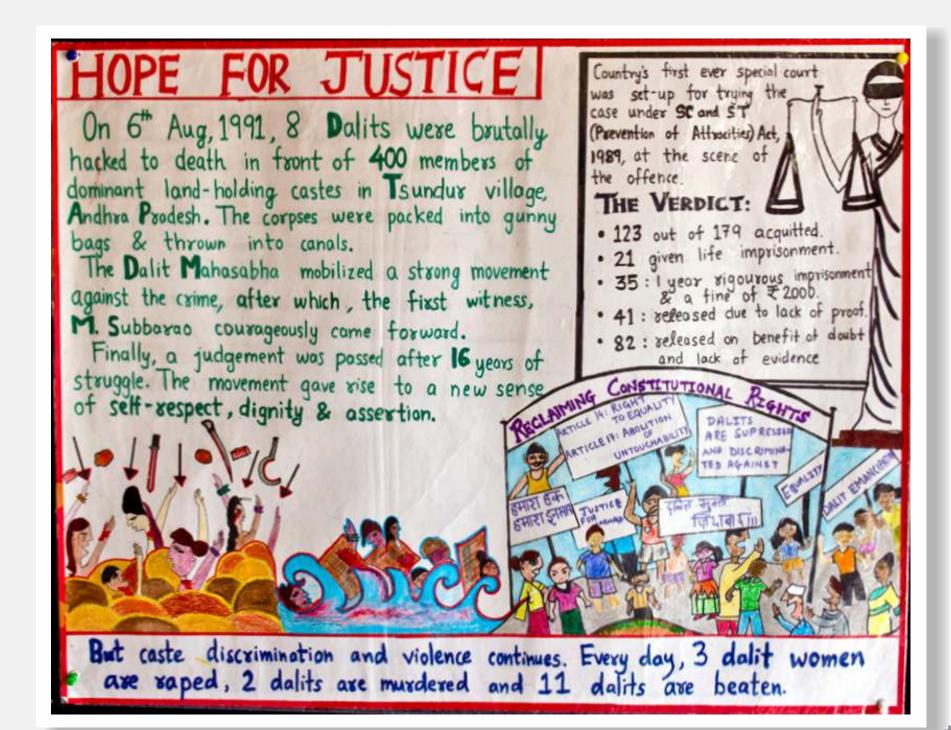
·47,539 people attending meeting:

· Made aware about Legislation concerning minimum wage

· Started demanding their rights

· Apart from this, the trust provides legal assistance, conducts surveys and organizes awareness drives.





CHILD RIGHTS

By virtue of being a child, every child is entitled to some fundamental rights. Violating these rights of children is violating their human rights. We can link children's futures to their rights. If all these rights are guaranteed, then they will have a secure future. This section tells us about what those rights are, how they are being infringed upon and steps we can take to protect it.

1. Right to nutritious food

Food does not mean just providing bare minimum calories for survival, but a wholesome nutritious diet. As a child is growing constantly, he/she needs this diet at regular intervals. If not provided, it can affect him/her physically and mentally which can lead to chronic diseases.

In India, every 3rd child is malnourished and 150 million of them are at the risk. 3 in 4 children are anaemic. By judging this situation we can easily make out the health crisis which children are going through.

2. Right against abuses

As a child is weak, he/she becomes an easy victim of their parents' and elders' anger and desires. They suffer from mental, physical, verbal and sexual abuse. Ramifications of these abuses can be dire; for example, death. Mental trauma and permanent physical injuries caused by it can ruin a child's life forever. To curtail sexual abuse, children should be told about safe touch and made aware of its existence.

3. Right against exploitative labour

A child is an ideal choice for cheap labour. With the advent of globalisation, the process of child labour has been accelerated. The number shot from 11.28 million to 12.66 million in the first decade of globalisation. And the labour is exhaustive and extensive. They are mostly employed in construction sites and cigarettes factories where working conditions are harsh.

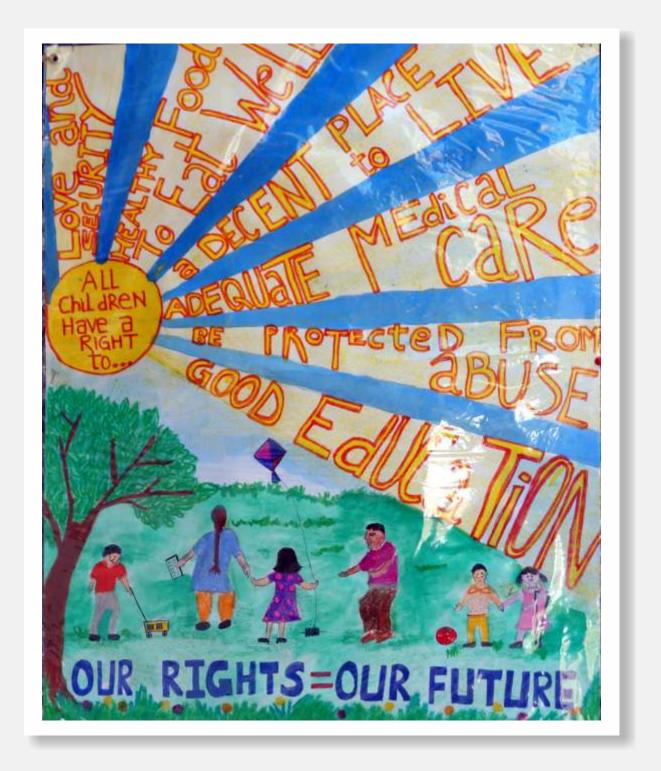
4. Right to quality education

In India, 70 out of 100 children enrolled in school drop out before the secondary level.* Enrolment ratio in secondary education is as low as 18 percent. Education is exclusive and discrimination on the basis of certain identities is practised. Children from lower income groups are discouraged by their family to pursue education as they do not see any use of it. Although it has been made market-oriented, many educated people are still unemployed. Education is provided in this country, but not a quality one.

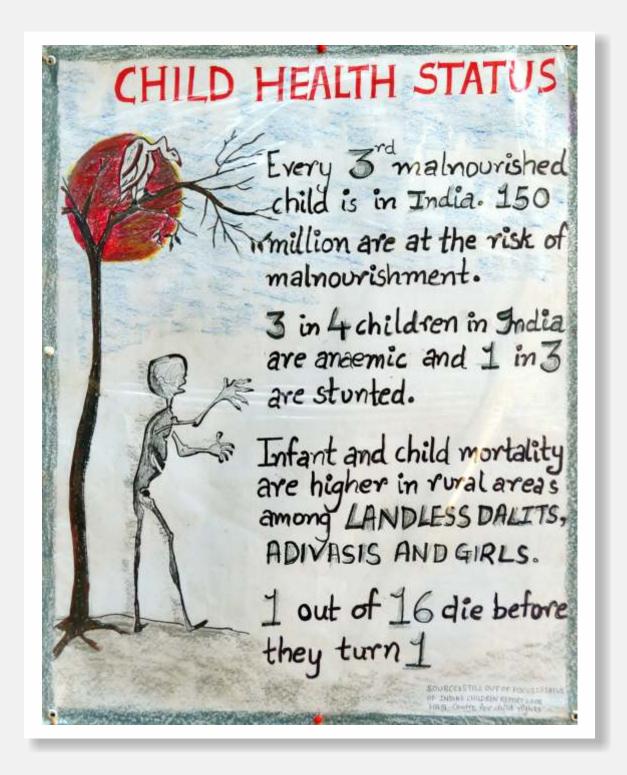
5. Other rights

Every child has the right to choose, to play and to leisure, to express his opinions and to dignity. Forcing decisions on children, overburdening them and curtailing their thought and speech are a violation of their rights. Let a child learn on his own. Do not teach him everything. Let him ask questions and when he asks them, do not discourage him.

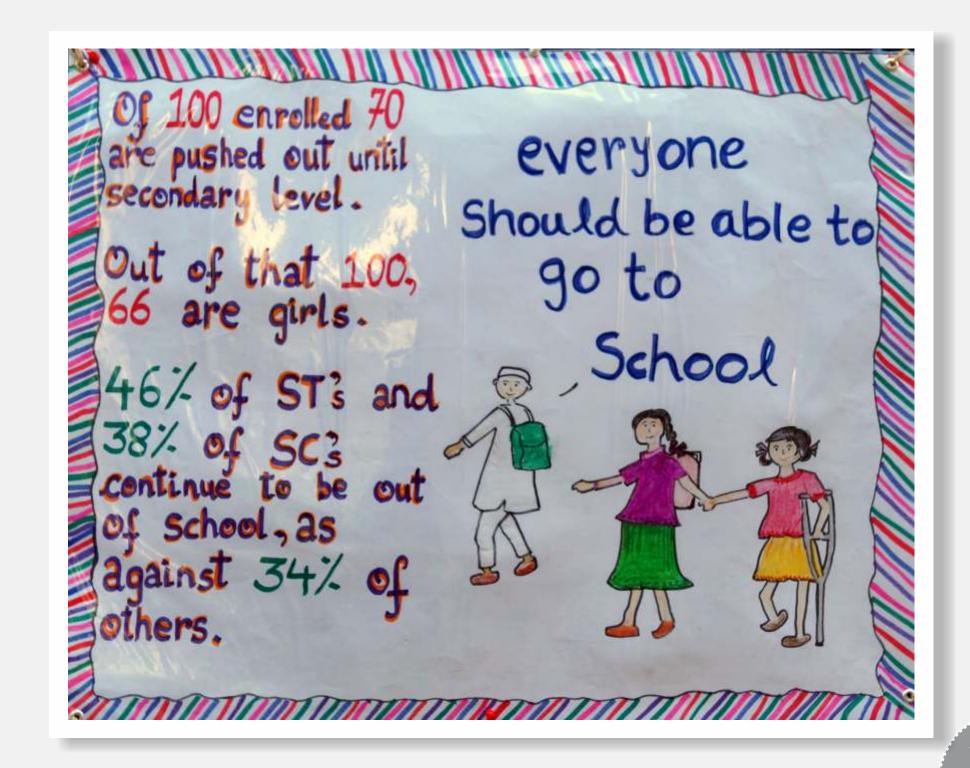
'Child' as an identity transcends every other identity including caste, gender, class etc. Violating their rights mean violating the rights of mankind.

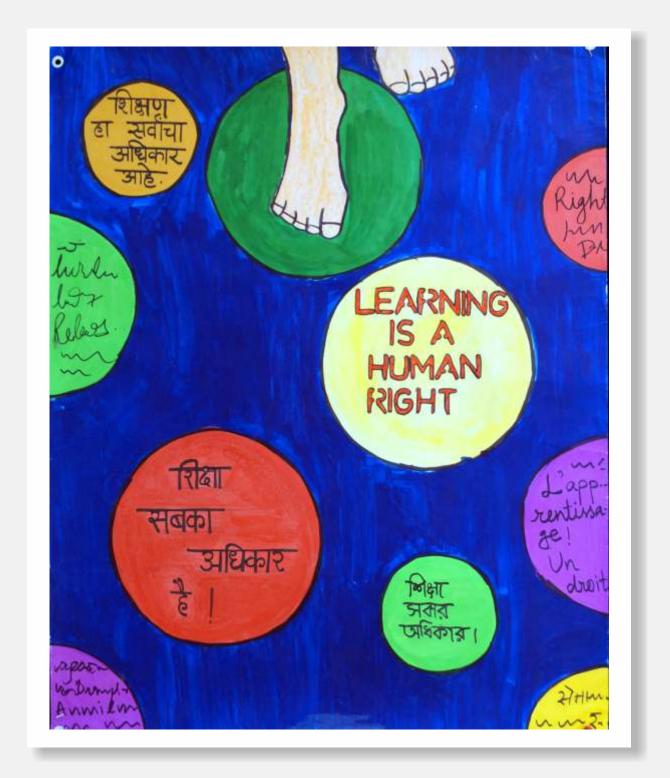




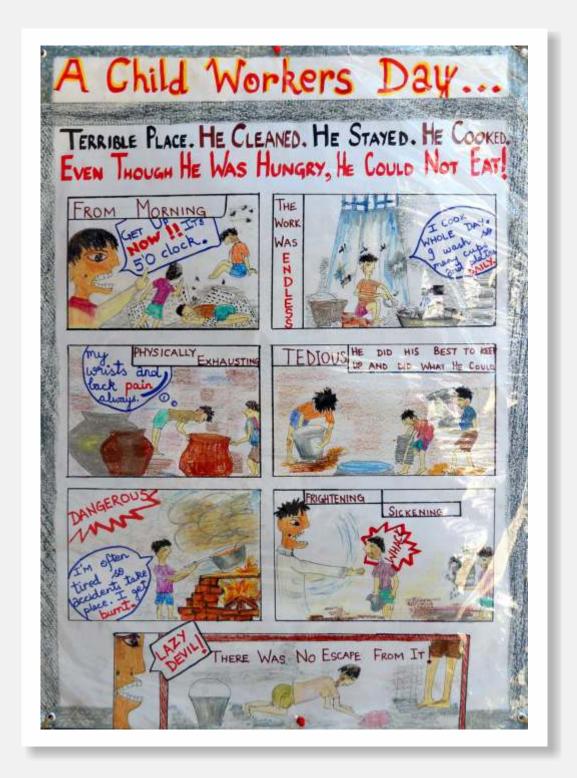


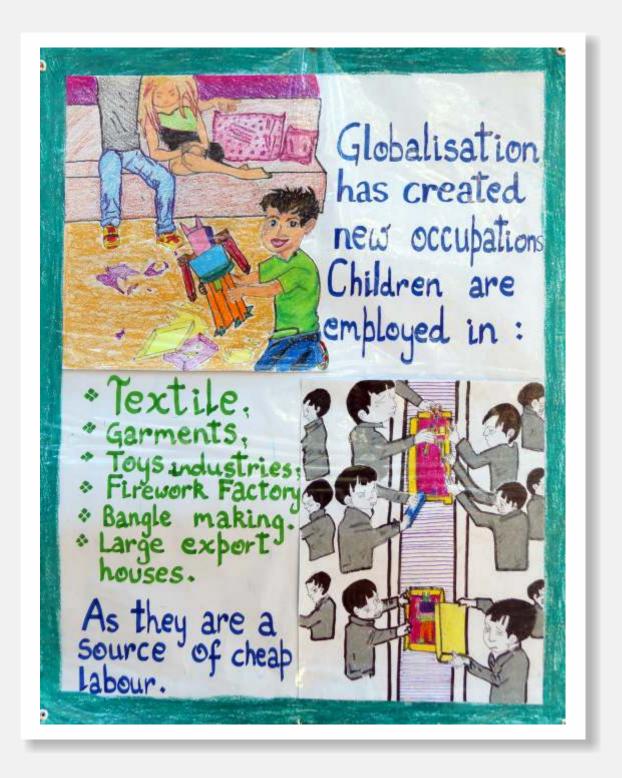


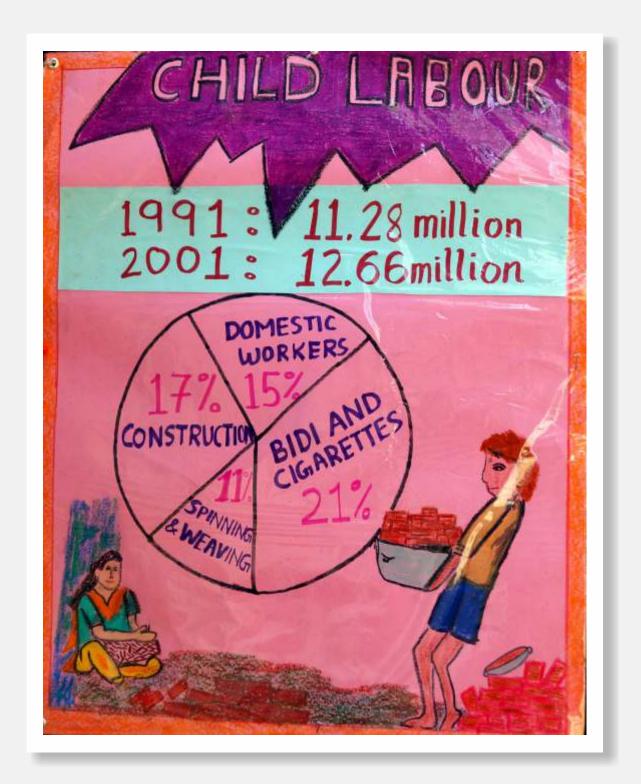


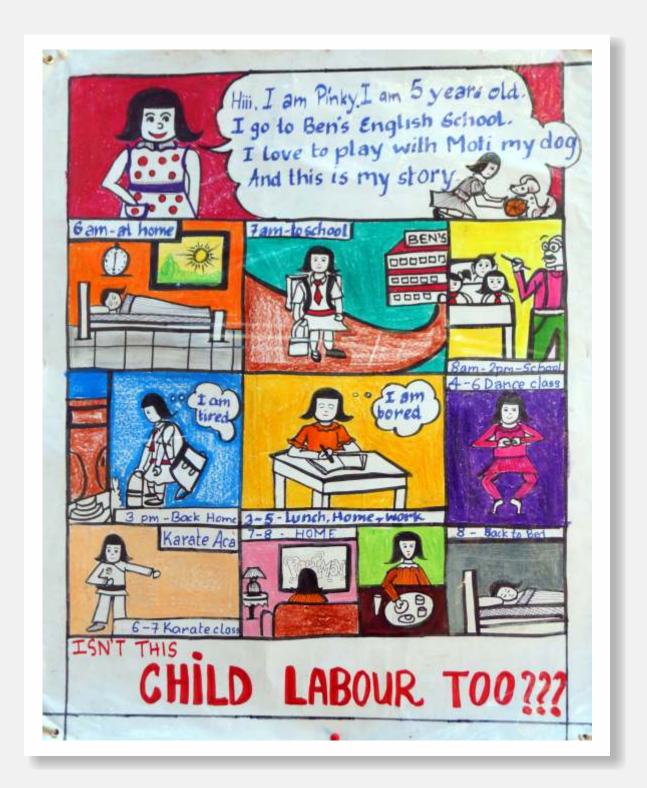


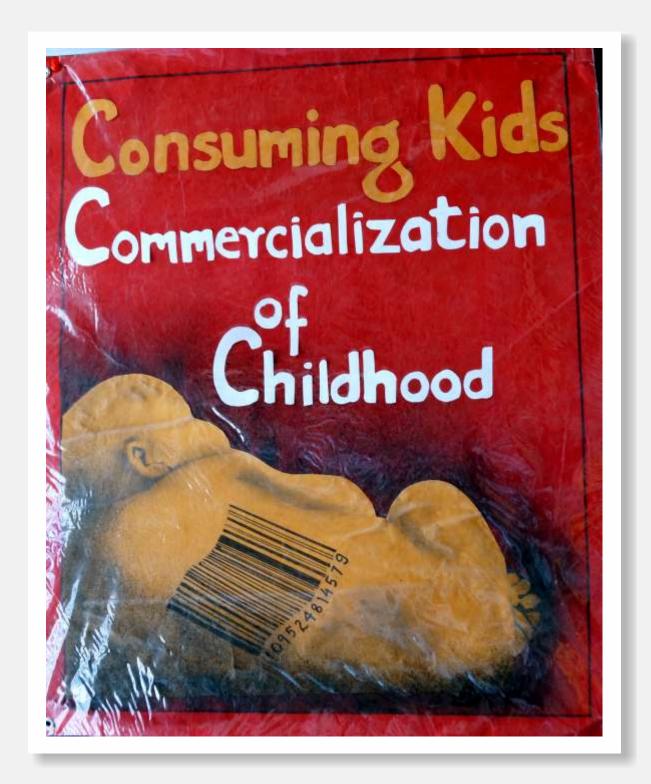


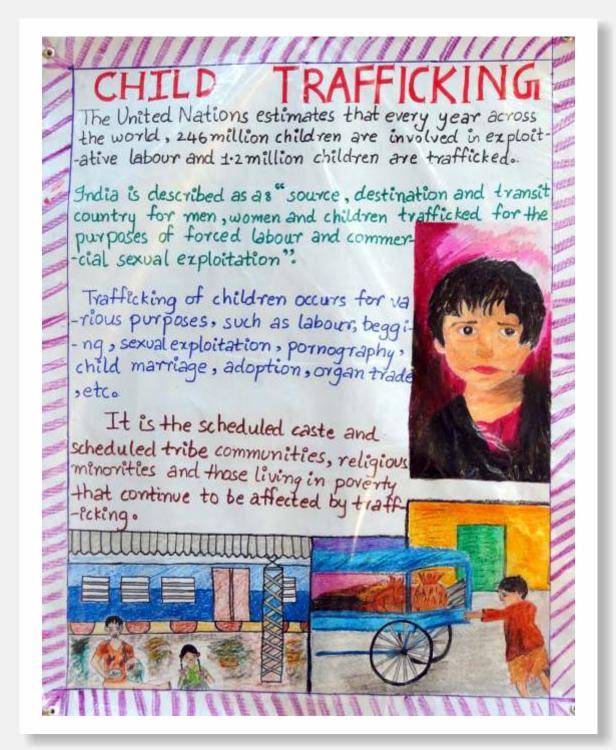


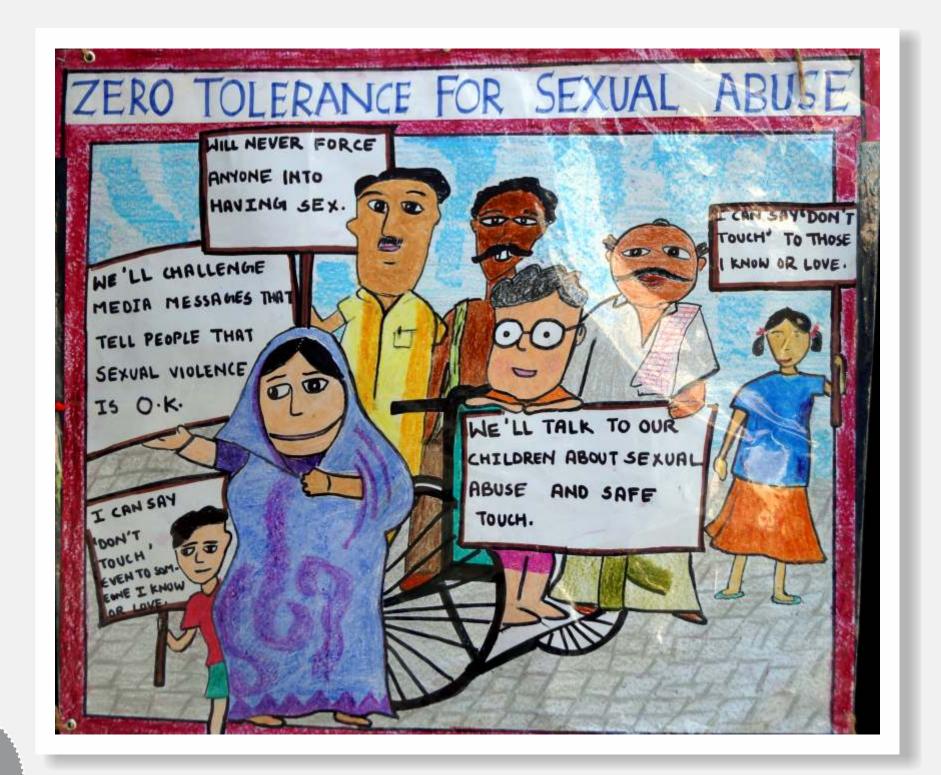


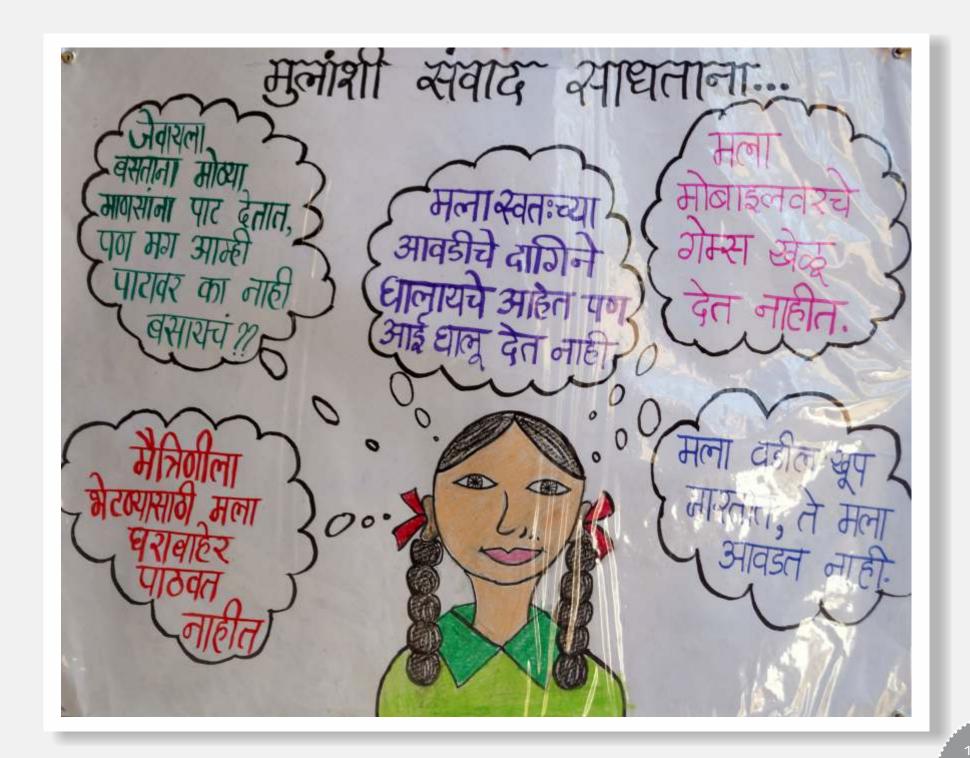


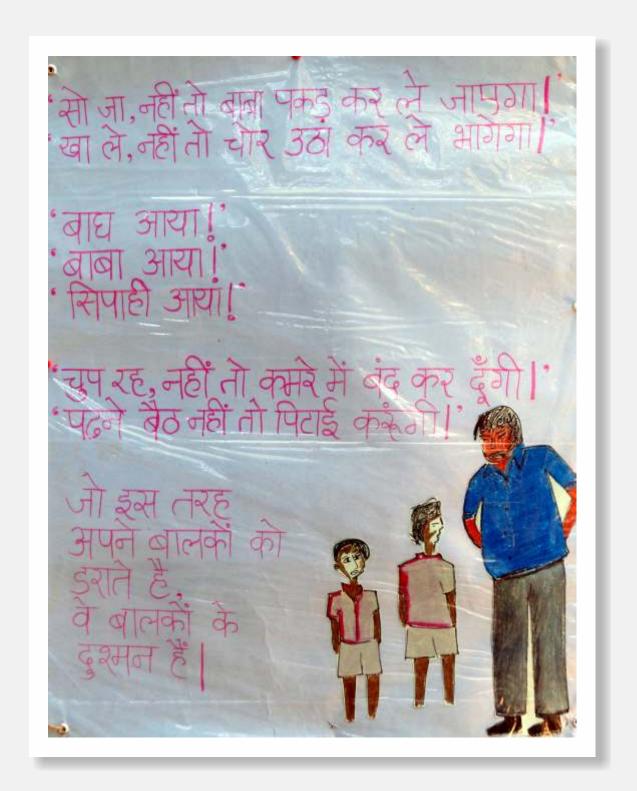


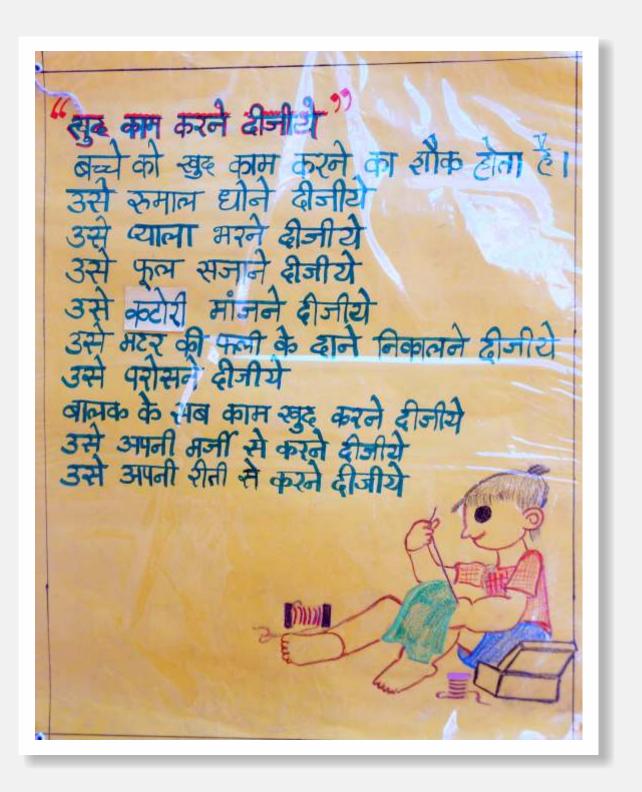


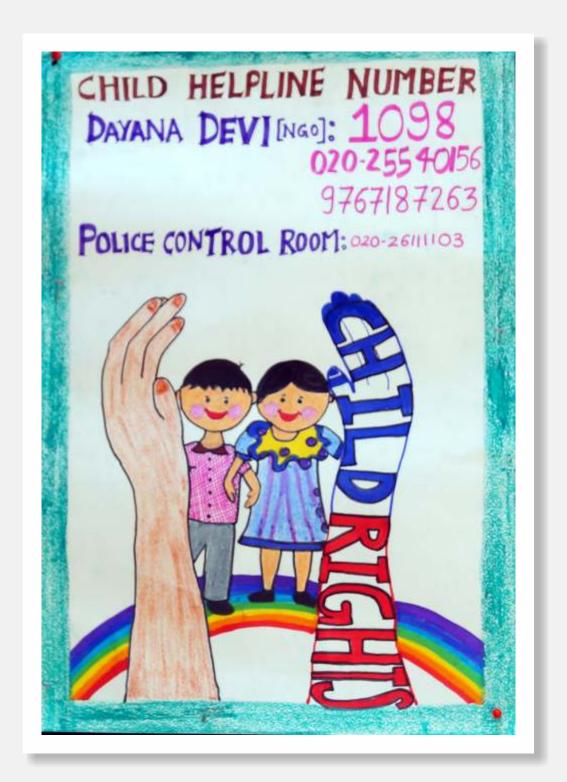












INDIAN DEMOCRACY

"The heart hoped that India would survive, but the head worried that it wouldn't. The place was too complicated, too confusing- a nation, one might say, that was unnatural."
-Ramachandra Guha, India After Gandhi

The future of Independent India was shroud with scepticism and doubt ever since its birth. But defying all odds and violating all social scientific generalizations, India has not just survived but thrived as a vibrant democracy. In the following posters, we have celebrated the diversity that India has enjoyed while maintaining its unity.

The Indian Constitution-the Vision and the Tool

"Has the constitution failed us, or have we failed the constitution?"

India has overcome its challenges with varied degrees of success and continues its struggle to deepen its democracy. Huge income disparity, dismal state of public health and education, communalism, prevalence of casteism and many others have been problems long ailing India. In the recent past, we have seen corruption and violence against women emerging as serious issues.

The constitution is our guide and the tool for dealing with these issues. The constitution has been largely successful in maintaining India's social fabric. Any shortcomings are because of our failure to endure on its path. Our constitution has not just provided for a political democracy but has facilitated, through its ideals, democracy in the social sphere. The values enshrined in our constitution- Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity- are both means and ends for us. All we need is to follow these ideals as envisioned by its makers.

Decentralisation

With the end of the Congress era, we see regional aspirations taking form of regional parties. This has led to decentralization of power and strengthened the federal nature of the state. Along with this, the 73rd and 74th Amendment Act(1993) institutionalised the Panchayati Raj and gave more powers to the third tier. Both this processes have led to decentralisation of power, increased level of participation and strengthened Indian democracy.

Power to the People

"My definition of democracy is -

A form and a method of Government whereby revolutionary changes in the social life are brought about without bloodshed. That is the real test. It is perhaps the severest test. But when you are judging the quality of the material you must put it to the severest test."

⁻ B.R. Ambedkar, Writings And Speeches

There has been mobilisation of people through political and social movements based on the identities of caste, language, occupation, gender and region. These movements have widened the scope of people's participation and ensured effective representation of diverse marginal groups and their demands.

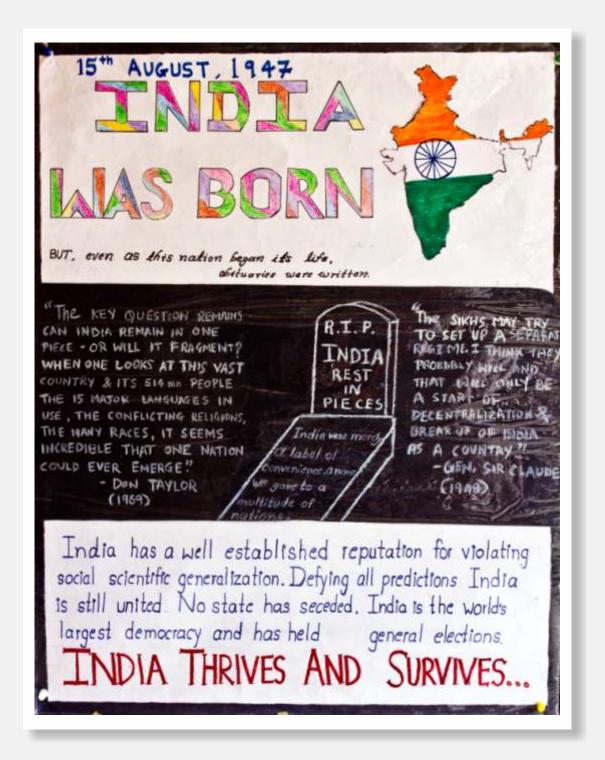
These movements have had some success. There were two case studies which highlighted this success. In 2013, an aluminium mining project in the Niyamgiri hills of Orissa, by a multinational giant was not given permission to mine, after all gram sabhas of the region rejected the proposal. In Tsundur in Andhra Pradesh, justice was delivered when the perpetrators of caste atrocities were finally punished. Cases like these give hope and reaffirms one's faith in the Indian democracy.

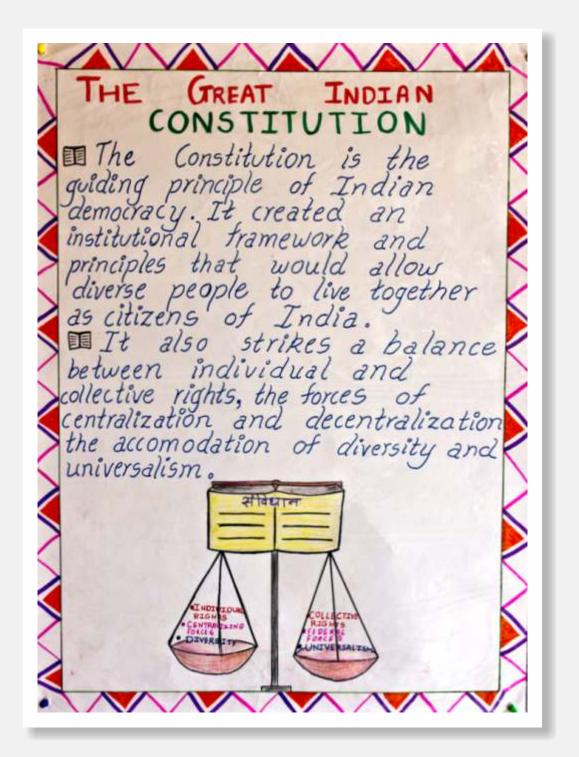
Dealing with diversity

"The Indian nation does not privilege a single language or religious faith. Although the majority of its citizens are Hindus, India is not a "Hindu" nation. Its constitution does not discriminate between people on the basis of faith; nor, more crucially, did the nationalist movement that lay behind it."

⁻Ramachandra Guha

In India, one can be a Hindu, a girl, a dalit, a Maharashtrian and an Indian all at once, without any one identity dominating over another unless manipulated. While all of this is true and Indian Democracy thrives- especially when compared to neighbouring states, we must not forget the 2 years of 1975-77, the GREAT EMERGENCY which resembled the death of Indian democracy. And there are also other concerns-discrimination towards religious minorities, lower castes, people with disabilities, sexual minorities and other marginalised groups still continues. As the struggle for an egalitarian and a socially just nation runs strong through the politics of democracy, we must celebrate the successes and learn from the failures of the past.





· ~ THE PREAMBLE DEMYSTIFIED ~

REPUBLIC

The deed of the state is an elected from and not a decade large failten

JUSTICE

Citizene cannot be discriminated on the grounds of cath, religion and grade. Social impuliate had grade. Social impuliate had to be reduced. Generalist doubt work for obtaining a sile associately of the discriminated grade.

LIBERTY

There are no accommode make them on the stillages to relate they wish the copies that the copies that the copies that the copies they wish the copies that the copies with the golden up this charges in altern the copies to accommode the copies the copi

EQUALITY

All are again topics the law. The trusteend control impossible from to be control. The processes doubt comme again approximates for all.

FRATERNITY

All of an about tolow as igor are mander of the sent pointy. He was about to track a point steps, as inferior.



WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemonly resolved to constitute India into a SOVEREIGN, SOCIALIST, DEMO-CRATIC REPUBLIC and to secure to all

JUSTICE, social, economic and political; UBERTY, of thought, expression, belief and worship;

its citizens:

EDALITY of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the Nation; IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY,

this twenty-sixth day of November, 1949, DO HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION

WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDI

The constitution has been do need and constitut by the fer file through their sufmenter and not tended down to them by a bing or any and to fount

SOVEREIGN

Roble have supreme rights as made decision on internal, as nell as external matters. No external form can dictale the government of India

SOCIALIST

Wealth is created socially and should be dered emilly by socially by socially by socially by socially from socially of band end industry to reduce social industry to reduce social industry to reduce social temporal industries.

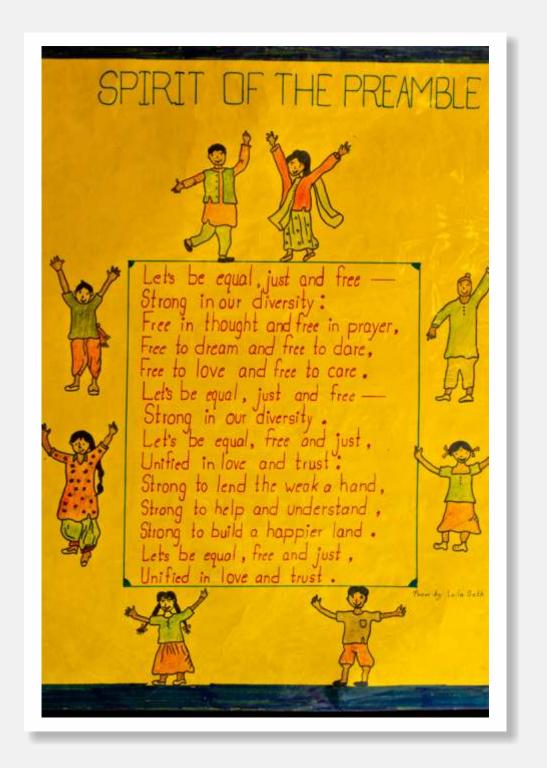
SECULAR

Citizen have conflict posile fellow any religion fur these is no official religion themanent breef all religion themanent breef all religion alless and fraction with light respect

DEMOCRATIC

A form of personnent where public major court failed at major court failed at the reduce and that them accounts the



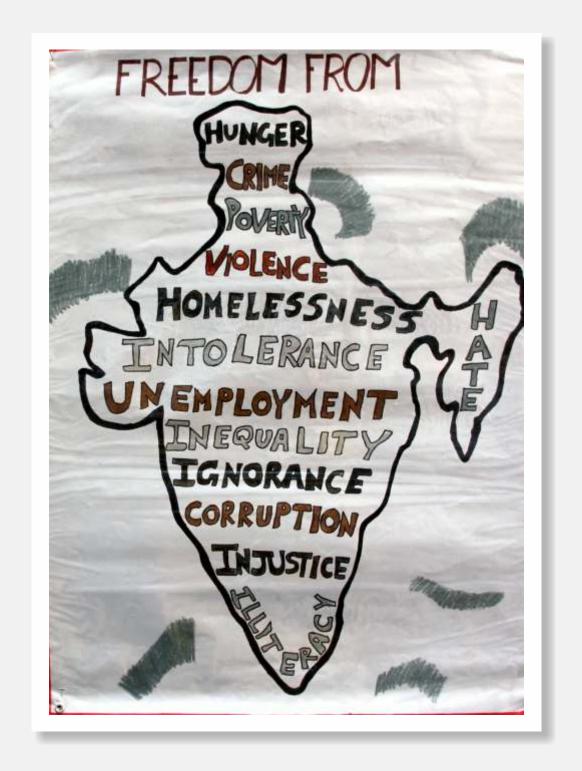


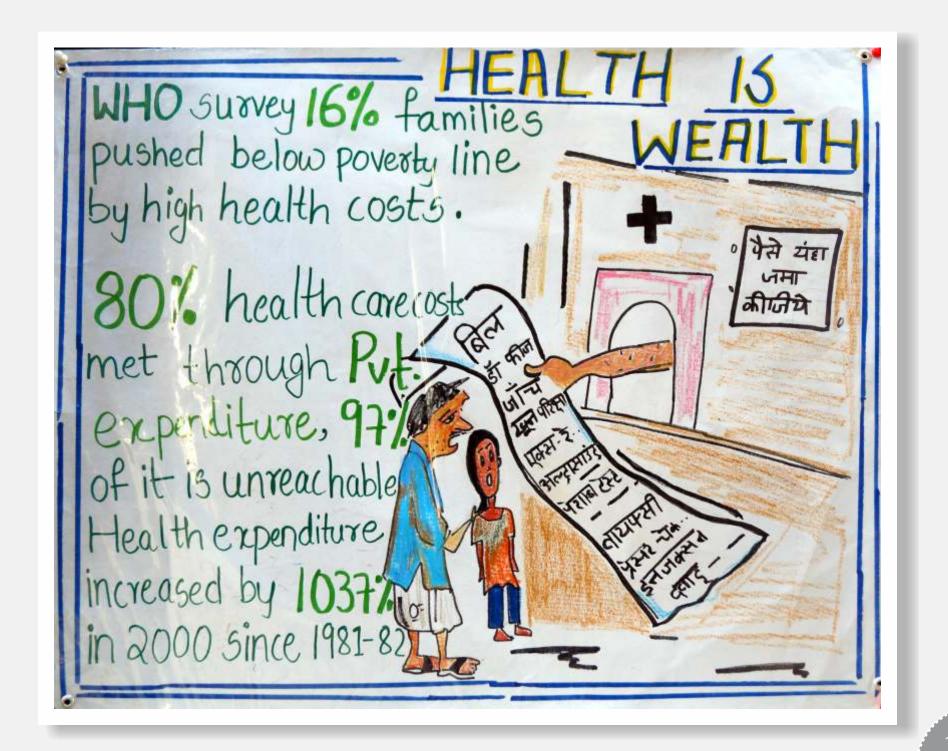
Dr. B.R. AMBEDKAR:

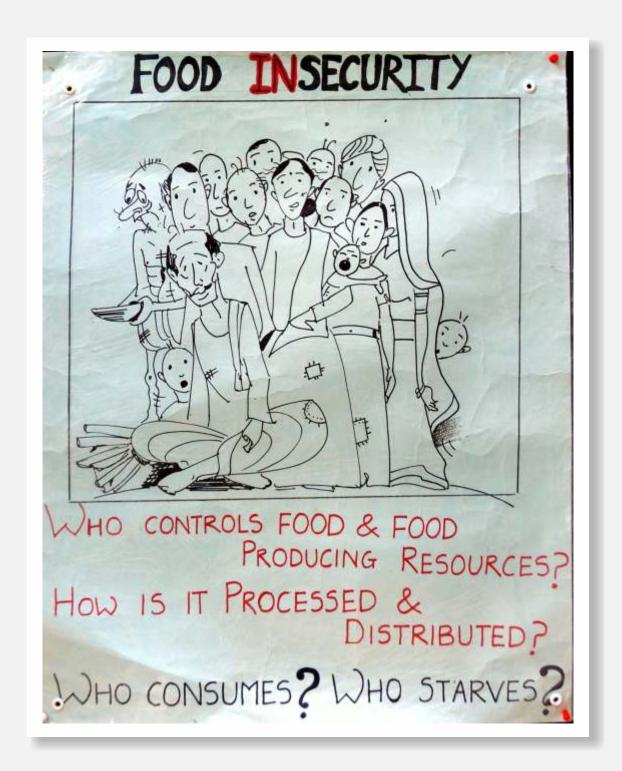
On the 26th January 1950 we are going to enter into a life of contradictions.

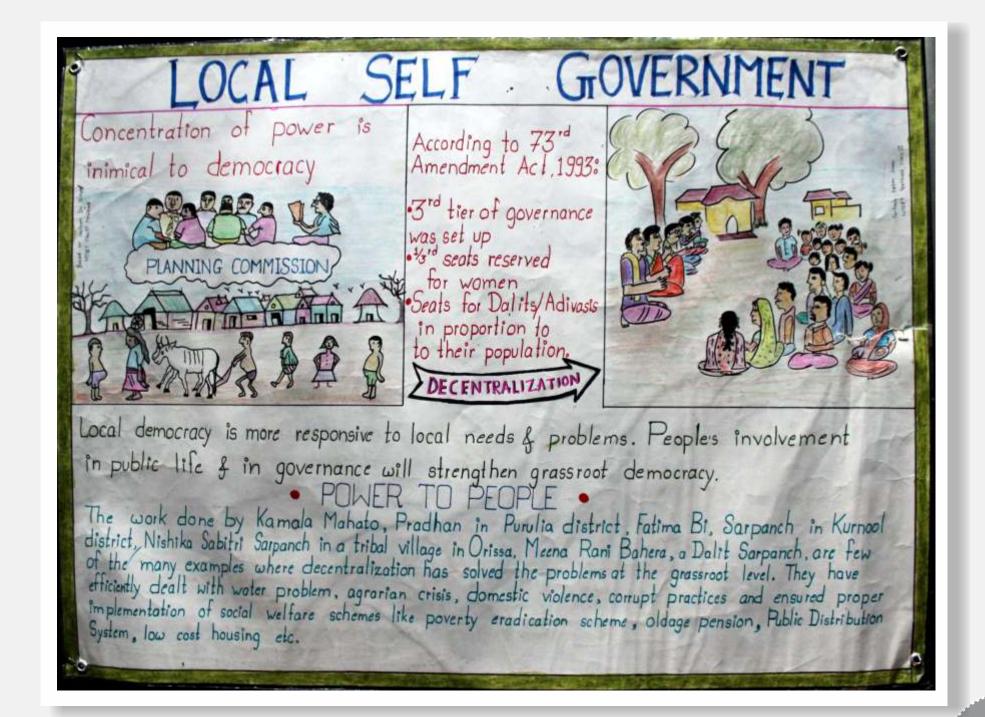
In politics we will have equality & in social and economic life we will have inequality. In politics we will be recognizing the principle of one man one vote and one vote one value. In our social and economic life we shall, by reason of our social and economic structure continue to deny the principle of one man one value.



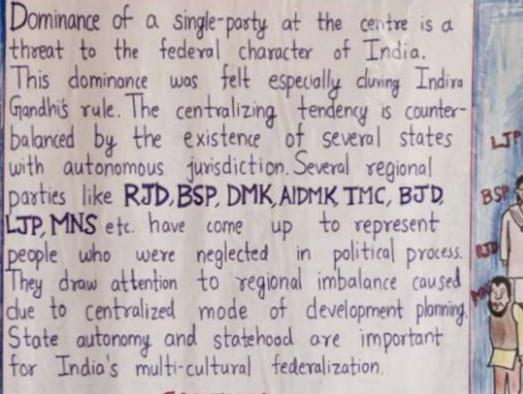








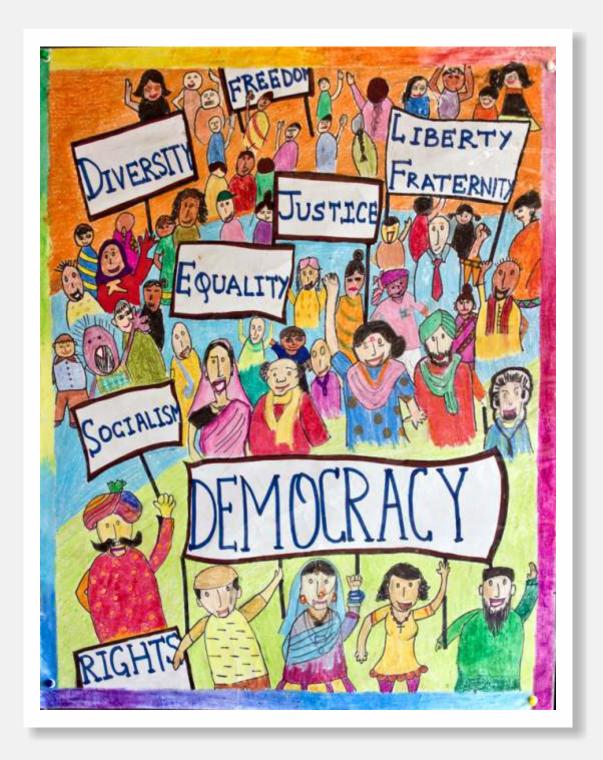
EMERGENCE OF REGIONAL PARTIES



CAUTION:

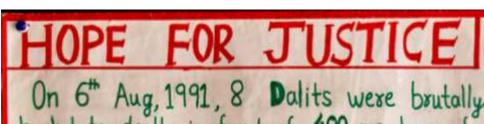
economic backwardness gives rise to sub-regional demands. BUT, belief in superiority of one's culture over others and the growth of intolerance towards others can

have a very negative impact and should be avoided.









On 6th Aug, 1991, 8 Dalits were brutally hacked to death in front of 400 members of dominant land-holding castes in Tsundur village, Andhra Prodesh. The corpses were packed into gunny bags & thrown into canals.

The Dalit Mahasabha mobilized a strong movement against the crime, after which, the first witness,

M. Subbarao courageously come forward.

Finally, a judgement was possed after 16 years of struggle. The movement gave rise to a new sense of self-respect, dignity & assertion.

Country's first ever special court was set-up for trying the case under SC and ST (Prevention of Attractics) Act, 1989, at the scene of the offence.

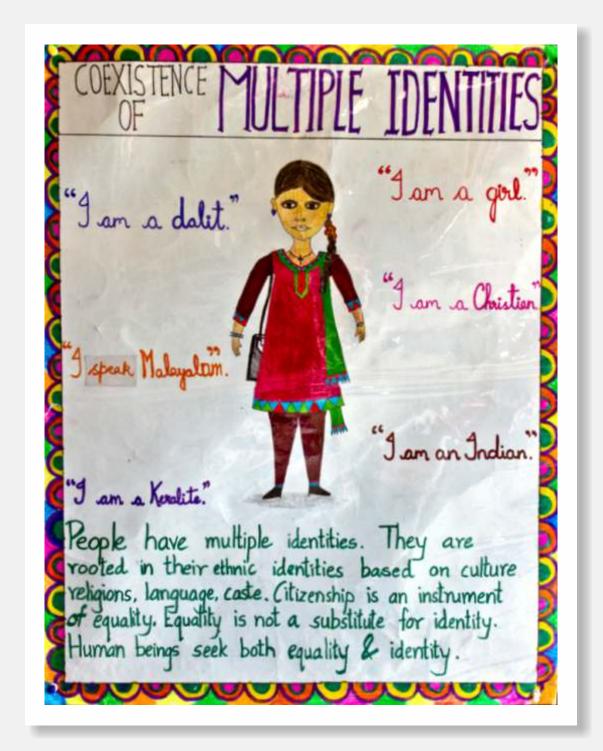
THE VERDICT:

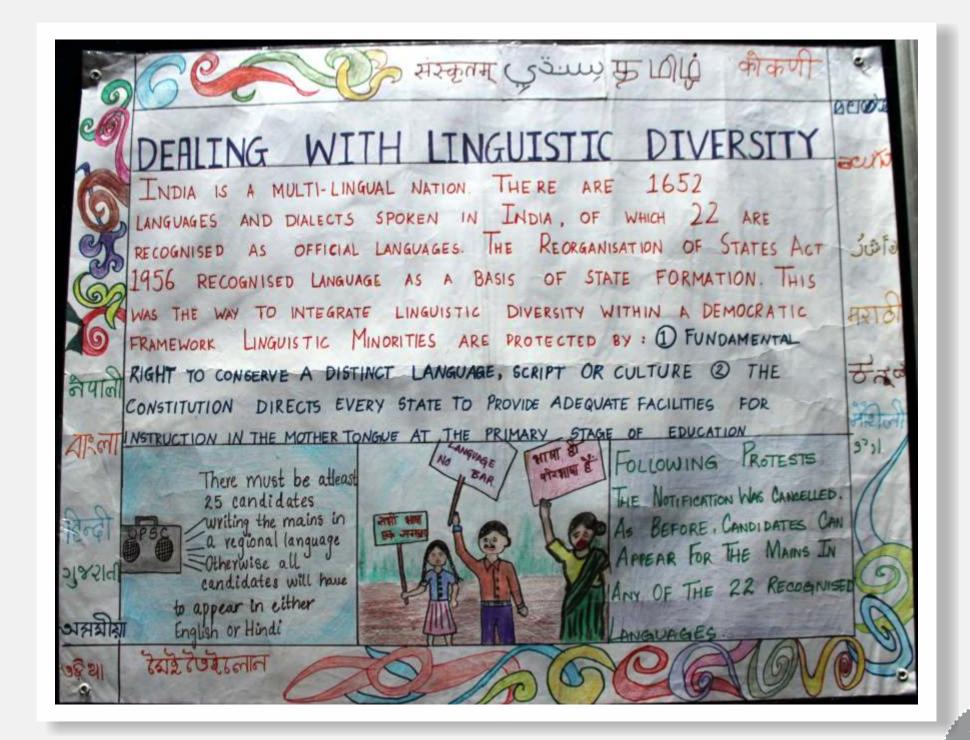
- · 123 out of 179 acquitted.
- · 21 given life imprisonment.
- . 35 : I year rigourous imprisonment
- · 41 : refeased due to lack of proof.
- · 82 : released on benefit at doubt



But caste discrimination and violence continues. Every day, 3 dalit women are raped, 2 dalits are murdered and 11 dalits are beaten.









The Schedules Vand VI of the Indian Constitution protects tribal rights by granting greater autonomy.

lations in the schedule areas must be in conformity with the customary law.

Forest Rights Act 2006 recognises the rights of adivasis to the land they have occupied for ages. The Act prevents the use of forest land for development purposes without the consent of the gram sabhas.

There are 664 notified tribes & many more sub-tribes in India. Each tribal group represents a distinct culture and way of life and this lends to diversity in India.

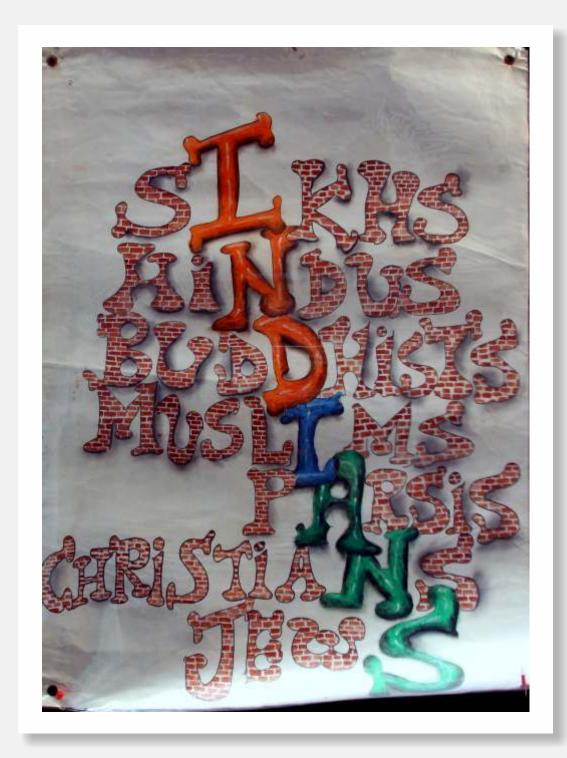
TRIUMPH OF TRIBALS:

In August 2010, VEDANTA was denied clearance for a bauxite Panchayati Extension to Scheduled Areas

1996 [PESA]: - Empowers gram sabhas mining project in Niyamgiri Hills of Octisha. On the basis of constitutional to take decisions on important matters like provisions the Dongria Kondh tribes protested against Vedanta and claimed land acquisition, ownership of forest produced their rights. The Supreme Court ordered Palli Sabhas to be held in prevention of land olienation etc. All legis
12 tribal villages, out of which 11 have rejected the project so far.

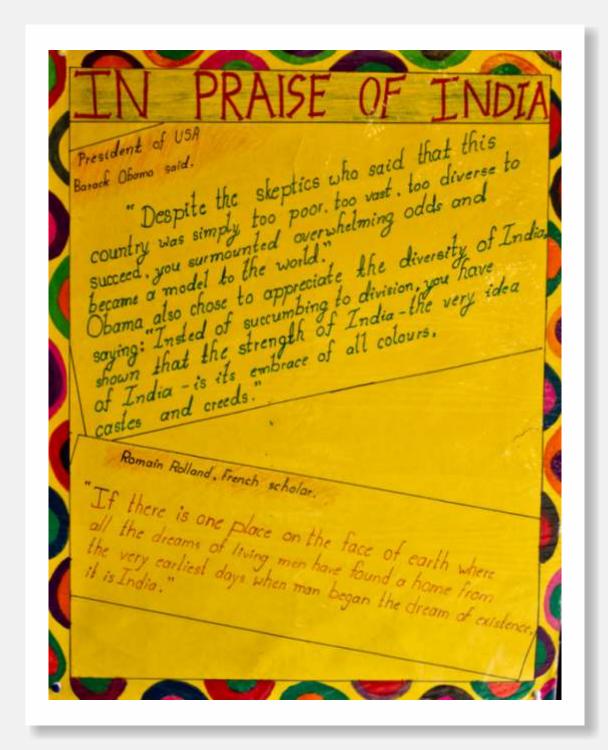


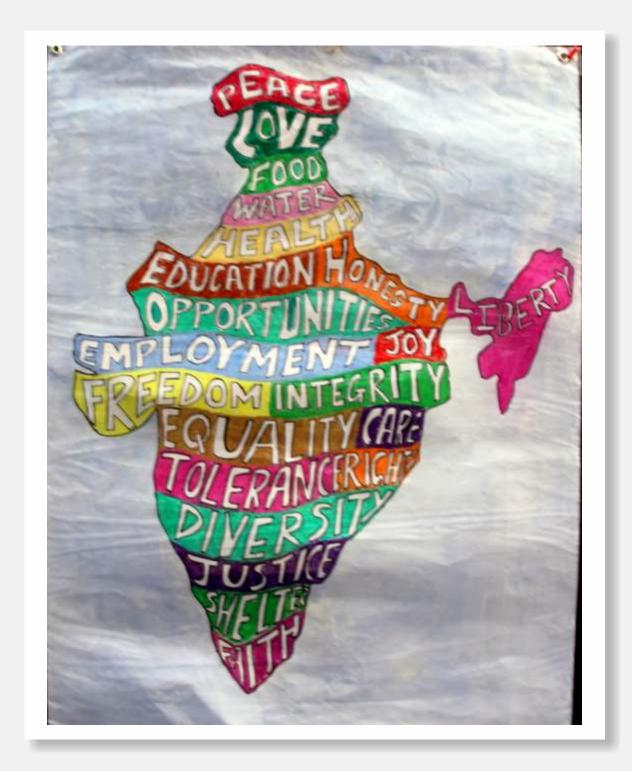












MEDIA

Media is known as the fourth pillar of democracy. It has become a prominent source of knowledge in this era. It does not just enlighten the masses about the working of the system, but also helps them by critiquing and pressurizing the flawed system. It puts forward the demands of the people and helps them attain them. It keeps the misuse of power by authority in check. It has empowered citizens by allowing them to voice their opinion. It has brought us closer to the truth.

But is it so? With the help of the following posters, we have tried to answer this question.

The old saying that "truth is stranger than fiction" could not be more accurate, for we have been deceived on such a grand scale that most would have a difficult time in comprehending the full extent of it. The nexus between politicians, big entrepreneurs and media houses is so strong that they can ignore, manipulate or create news which will help them gain more power. In a vast and diverse nation like India, the media is controlled by 25-30 business houses.

"There is massive propaganda for everyone to consume. Consumption is good for profits and consumption is good for the political establishment." - Noam Chomsky

Media also affects our personal life to an unimaginable degree. It will not be wrong to say that it chooses our life for us to some extent. The clothes we wear to the profession we choose are influenced, if not decided, by it. It promotes the culture of consumerism which dictates us to consume more and more commodities, leading to a vicious cycle. As leisure and work got dissected with the advent of industrialisation, man found solace in the continuous consumption of goods, thus becoming the victim of this culture. Things that we own ended up owning us.

When media establishments became preoccupied with providing big corporates huge potential customer base to advertise, instead of delivering unbiased news, its ethics and purposes got plagued. This commodification of news and its audiences should be curtailed as soon as possible.

The media's the most powerful entity on earth. They have the power to make the innocent guilty and to make the guilty innocent, and that's power. Because they control the minds of the masses.

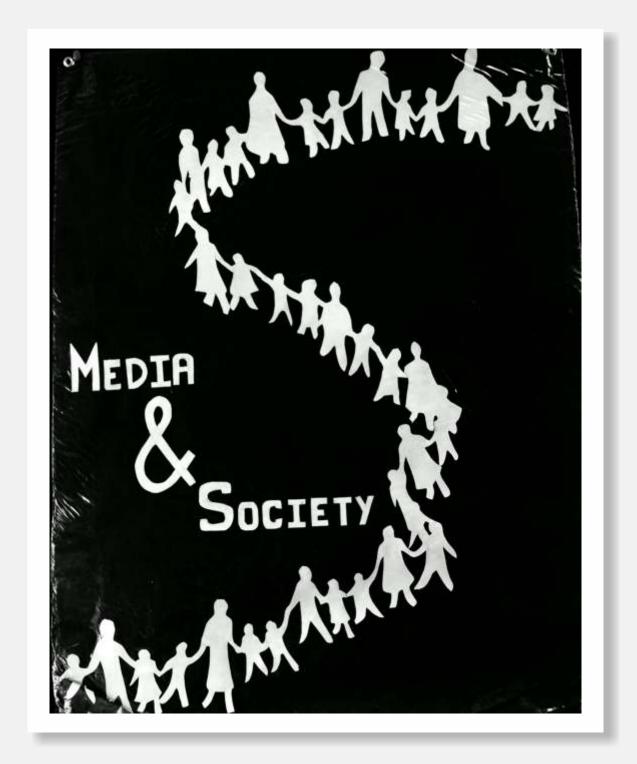
-Malcolm X

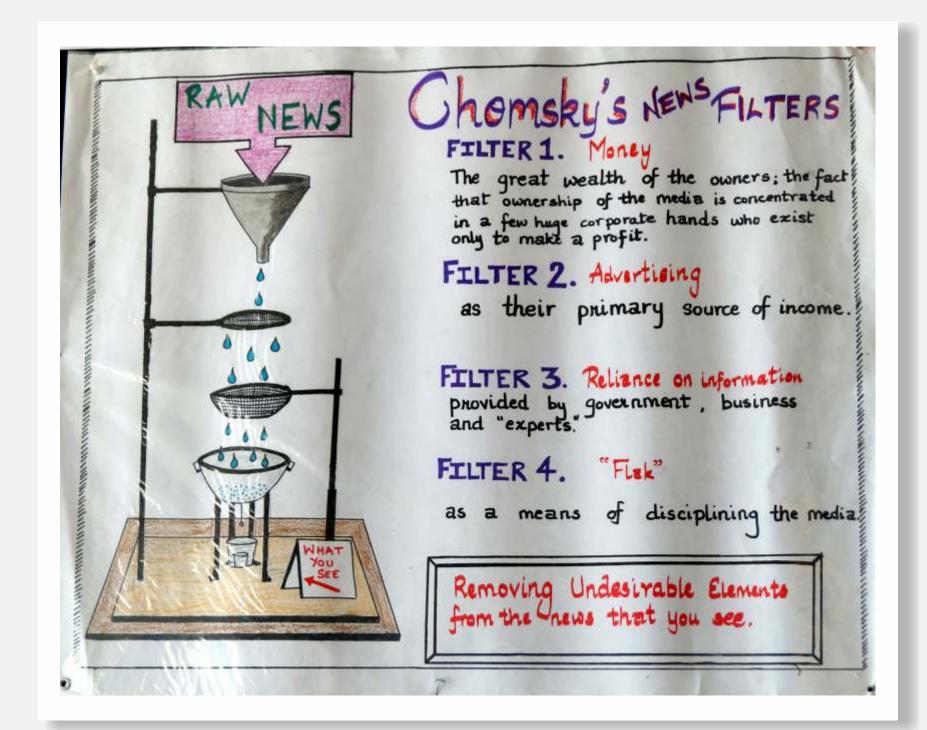
Any totalitarian state would envy the U.S.A. for its control over masses through media. It's true function was to question hegemony, not to be hegemonic. The truth has been trampled upon so many times by the dominant section that it has lost its subjectivity, converting it into a lie.

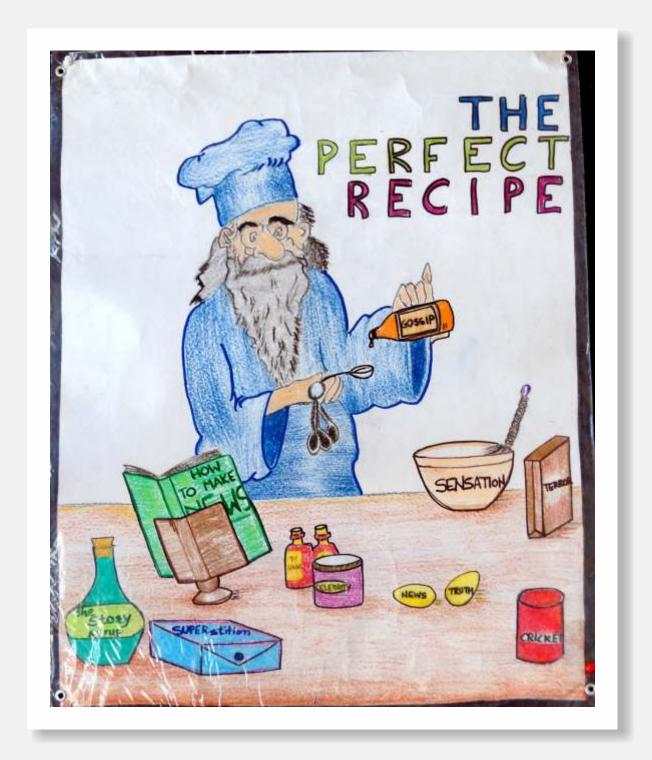
"I'm worried that students will take their obedient place in society and look to become successful cogs in the wheel - let the wheel spin them around as it wants without taking a look at what they're doing. I'm concerned that students might become passive acceptors of the official doctrine that's handed down to them from the White House, the media, textbooks, teachers and preachers."

- Howard Zinn

This meticulous cobweb of lies is hard to decipher. Posters shown in this section have tried to deal with this problem.











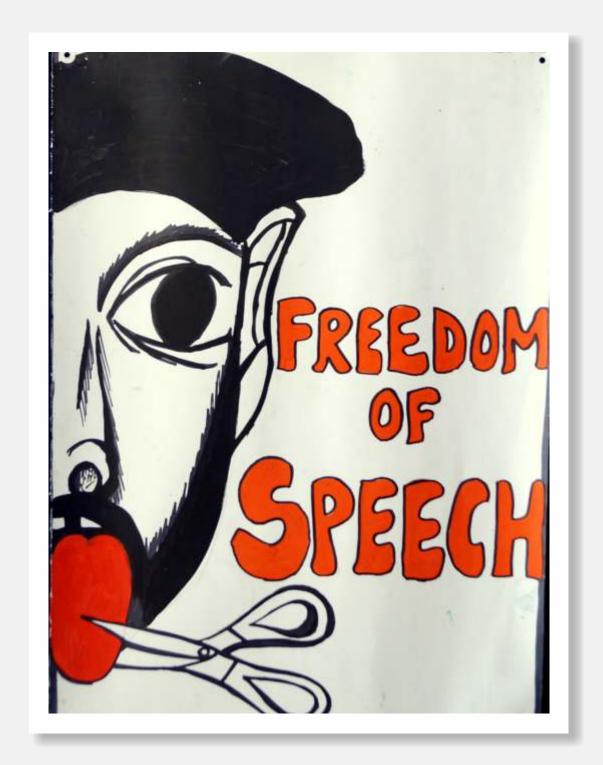














NUCLEAR

Our endless search for more and more energy and resources has laid our hands unto a dangerously powerful thing- Nuclear Energy. In this global energy crisis, nuclear energy is being projected as the "clean energy" and the "future".

In projecting it thus, the very crucial debate on the need and the impact of nuclear energy is sidelined or even worse dismissed. India's nuclear programme works in utmost secrecy. Even after the Fukushima incident, there was no major attempt to build confidence among the people. Instead, work continues and same repeated statements are made quoting technical compatibility with standards and saying maintaining secrecy is crucial for national security.

Concerns over the 'safe' and 'clean' nature of nuclear power are rising. With Chernobyl still a reminder of the potential damage a disaster could cause, only empty technical answers can't satisfy people anymore. There were huge protests in Kudunkulam against a new plant that was to come up. Despite the strong local participation, these protests were dubbed as opportunistic games of local parties and dismissed and suppressed brutally.

What we seek to do through these posters is to bring out things that the mainstream media and literature doesn't take up and raise fundamental questions on the need of the nuclear programme.

There is no answer to the problem of radioactive waste management over the globe. What we are seeing is just dumping into far off places where the impact can be reduced or perhaps be shifted over to others. There again are no answers to the radiation while mining and that leaks out at different steps of the process. Instead of recognising these potential dangers, the nuclear programme continues to be showcased as the need and future.

Why is there no similar importance given to the vast array of renewable resources? Despite having potential for using solar, wind, tidal and others, huge investments are still made only in nuclear energy. Many countries have in the recent past have done away with their nuclear programme or have started minimizing it. Yet, India is expanding its nuclear programme. In whose interest is this happening- for the 'energy crisis' or for the huge MNCs who get contracts to build plants with almost zero liability? It is only very recently that a law putting some liability has come up, but it is most presented as an hindrance to India's bargaining power rather than as a just law.

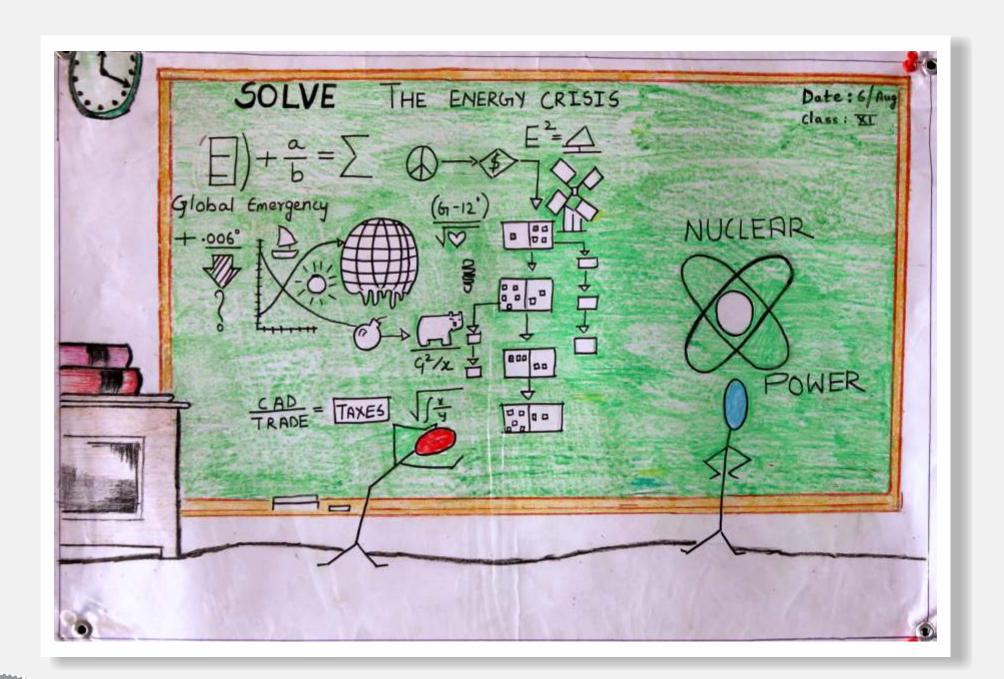
Large land areas are taken up by nuclear setups causing serious environmental damage. And, in all this, the brunt of this development of the 'superpower' nation, the 'sacrifice' is made by the marginalised sections. Large scale displacement, loss of livelihood for fishing folk, loss of fertile land and irregularities in rehabilitation are problems that they face for 'the larger good'. This unjust justification can't just continue.

With just 3% contribution in the total energy, it is somewhere evident that the funds are being spend on expanding the nuclear arsenal rather than on producing 'clean' energy. So do we just put the label of national security and ignore food security. What about basic rights being violated everyday for millions of Indians? Why are our policies and funding insensitive and insufficient in this area while it is abundant in the business of producing weapons for peace?

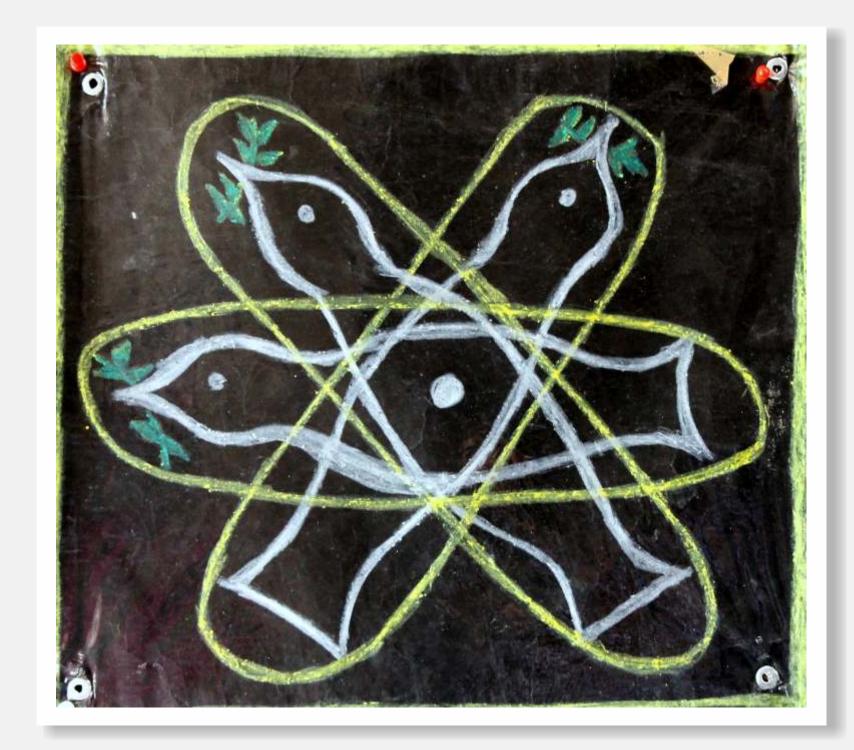
We have already shown in the 'Anti-war and Peace' section what the impact of war is and what peace means to us. Can we then live 'peacefully' in a nuclear world with a potential end always hanging in the air? Is the politics of threat and power our idea to create a world?

We are made to believe so. Well then, we need to think again.

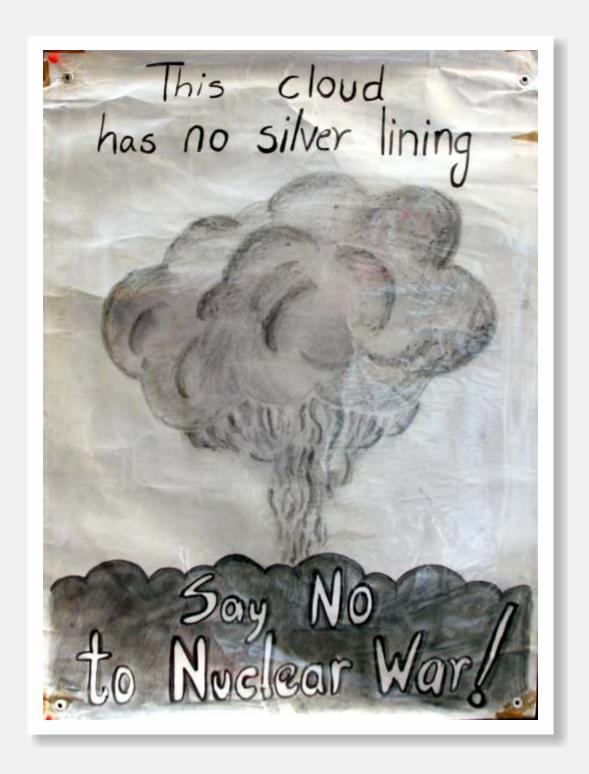








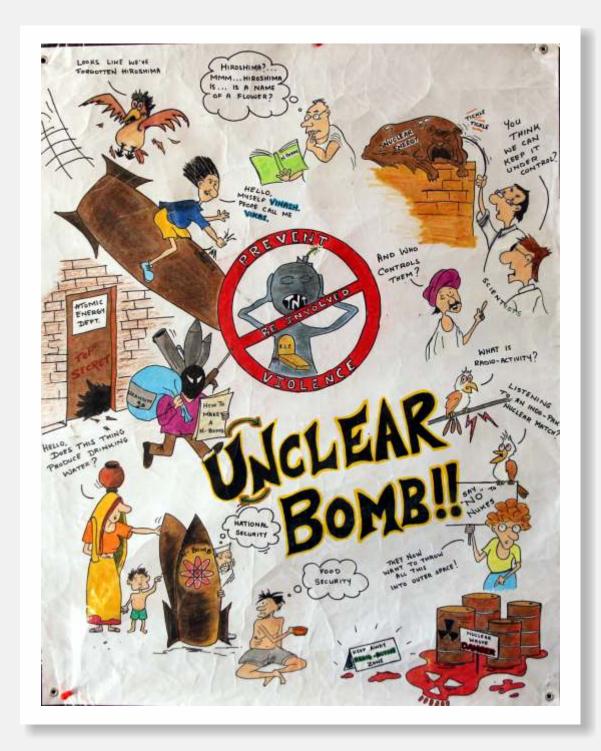












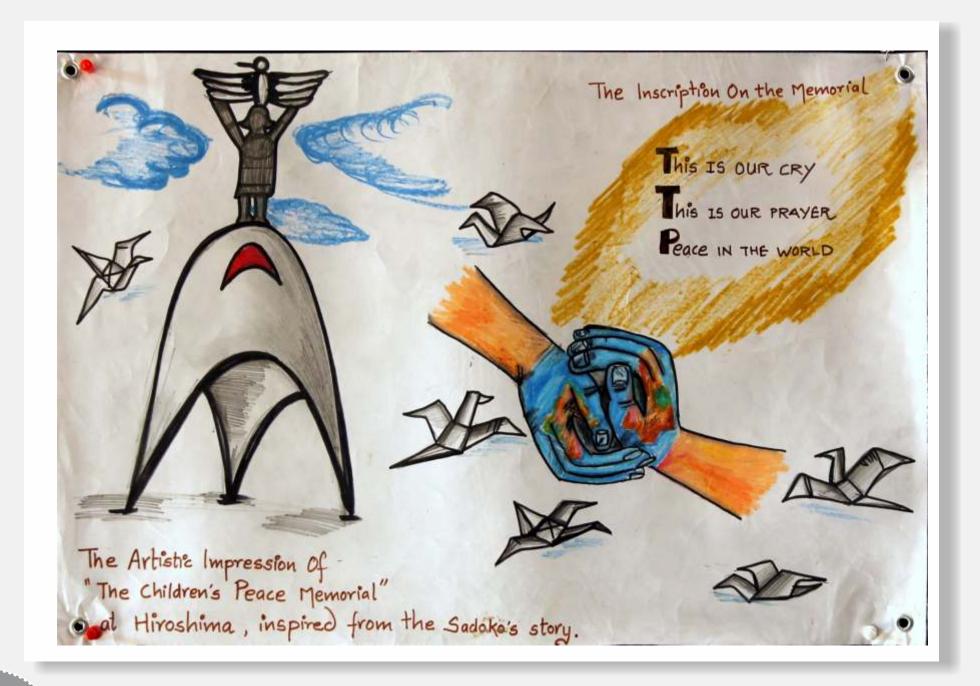














PEACE

We make war(so) that we may live in peace. Aristotle

Who wants peace? All, some, few, none? But before this, what is peace? Is peace desirable? Can it be attained? If yes, how? Through violent or non-violent means? What is opposite of peace, war or hatred? Why does war take place? Why is it so rampant? Is violence and war the same?

History of war will take us back, a long way. Humankind has a lot of examples. And so does India. The very existence of India started with violence, the pain of which still lingers along with the celebrations on every Independence day. And then, we have seen violence take place on a mass scale -some ignited on caste grounds, some on religious grounds and many on regional grounds. This mass scale violence has affected different people differently-women and children being the most vulnerable of all.

Why does this violence, this war, exist at all? It is a known fact now that the USA (Uncle Sam's Army), along with partners, ensures that wars continue. This is done to increase the sale of their arms and ammunitions because war means profit to them. But there is more to it- the constant need of the global north to dominate the global south for resources to fuel their economies.

A knife cutting flesh and oozing out blood, bullets being shot from guns, arrows and trishuls being used to take lives are very obvious instances of violence being inflicted. But, what about hunger, untouchability, poverty, malnutrition? Isn't that violence? Can peace mean "inner-peace", "silence" or "inactivity" then? Peace cannot be seen separate from equality, non-discrimination, social justice and liberty. Remaining silent and supporting the status-quo is not peace.

"Peace is more than the absence of war. Peace is accord. Harmony."

⁻ Laini Taylor, Daughter of Smoke & Bone

This section reflects upon our attempts to critically deconstruct the notion of peace which often is made to sound too ideal, too unachievable. But we believe that the following words hold true.

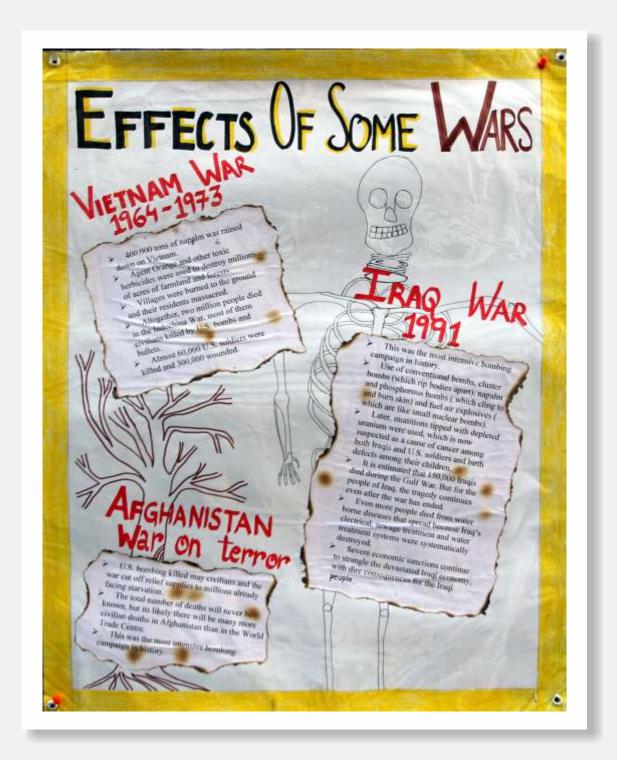
"Peace is the only battle worth waging."

⁻Albert Camus

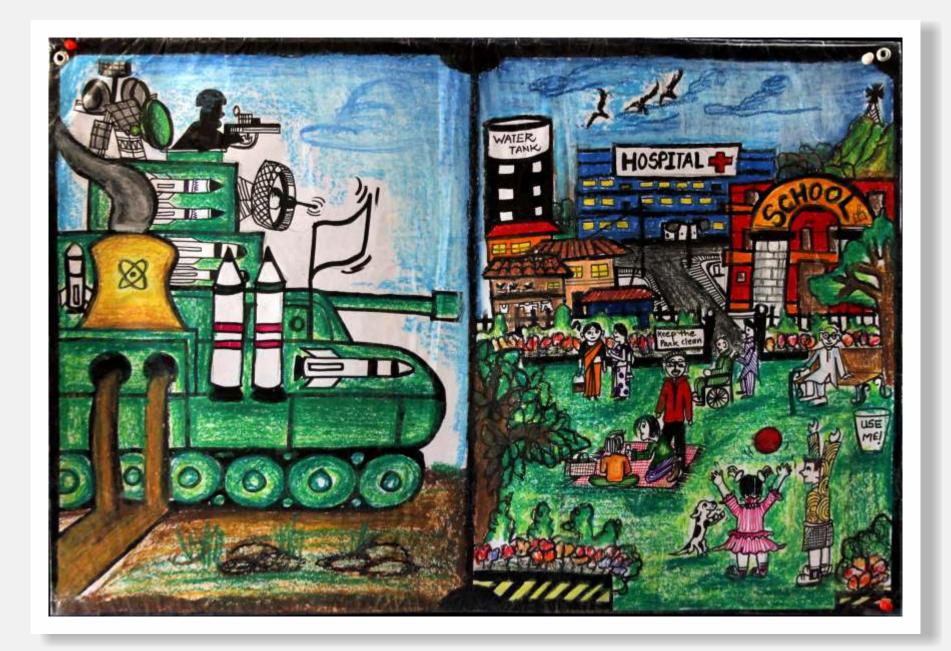


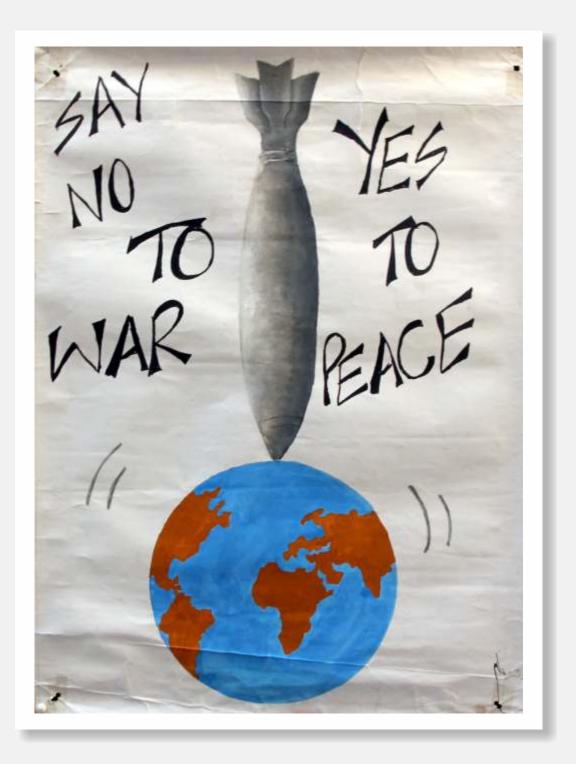
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE The first Peace Day was celebrated in September 1982 on the opening day of the General Assembly of the United Nations. The aim of observing this day every 21st of September is to devote a specific time to Doconcentrate the efforts of the United Nations and its Member States, as well as the whole of mankind, to promoting the ideals of peace and to giving positive evidence of their commitment to peace in all viable ways." The impact of millions of people, coming together for one day of peace, is immense, and does make a difference. International Day of Peace is also a Day of Ceasefire- personal or political.











"Every GUN that is made, every WARSHIP launched, every ROCKET fired, Signific, in the final sense, HUNGER and are NOT FED, those who are COLD and are NOT CLOTHED. This World in Arms is not Spending money alone. It is spending the SWEAT of its LABORERS the GENIUS OF its SCIENTISTS the HOPES of its CHILDREN ... Under the cloud of threatening WA It is HUMANITY hanging from a cross of iron." - DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER





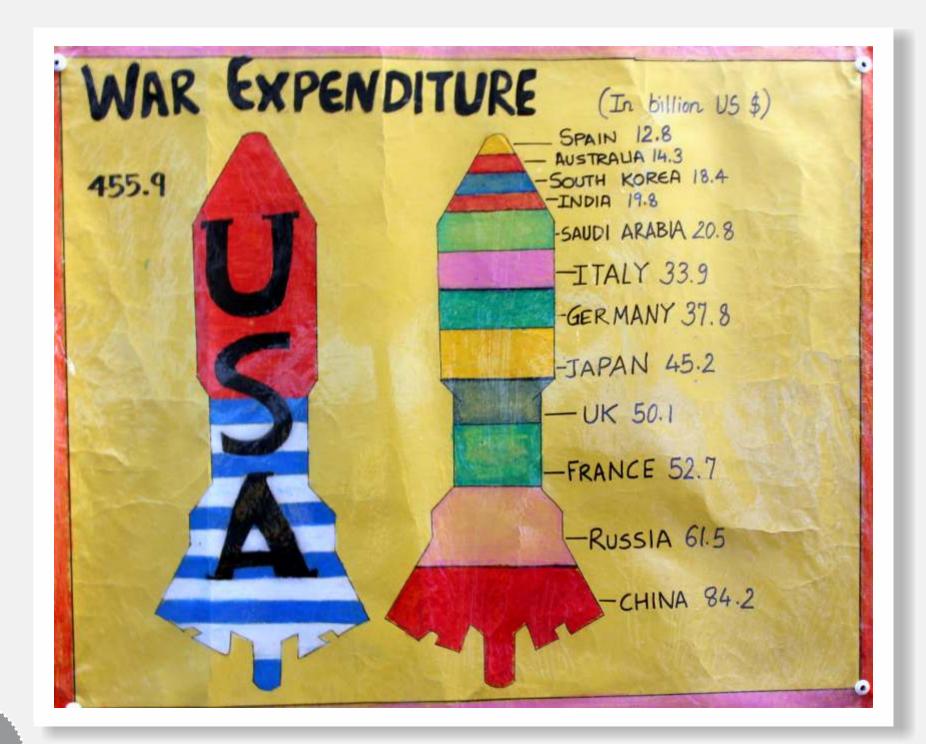


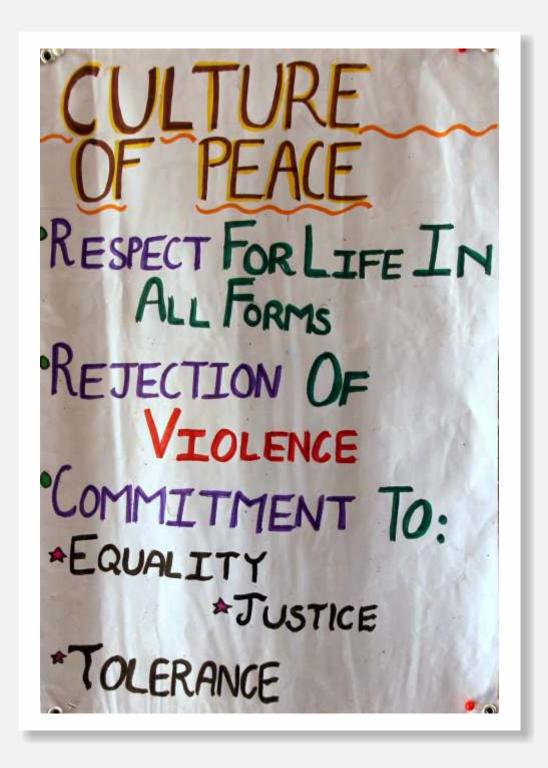


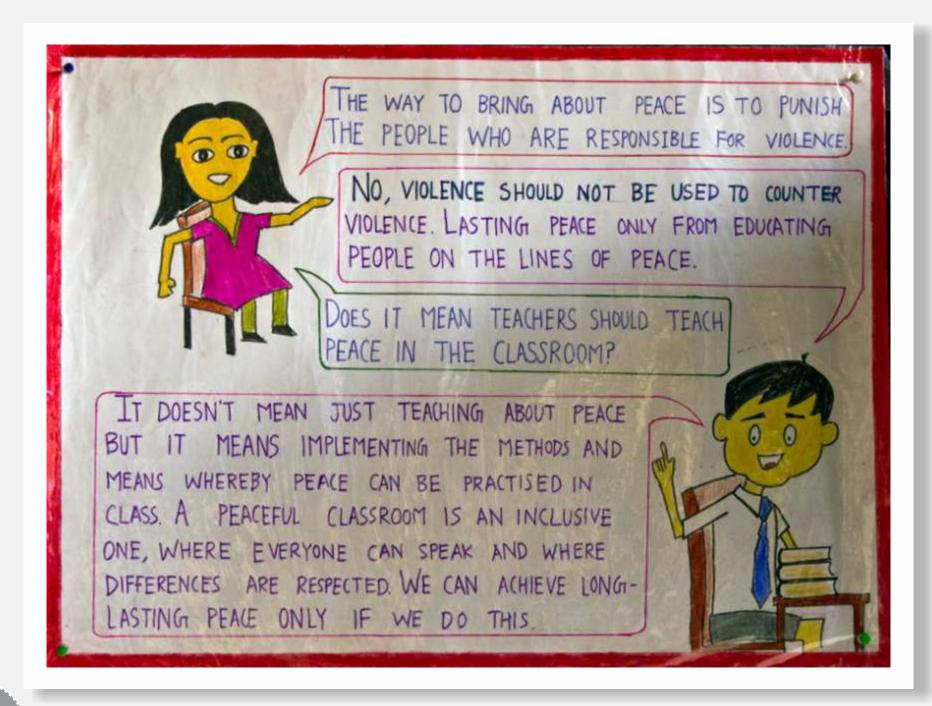






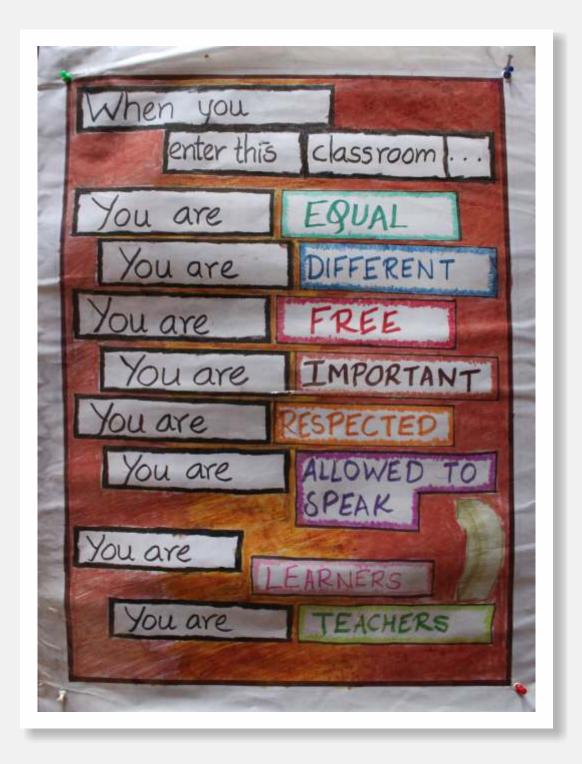


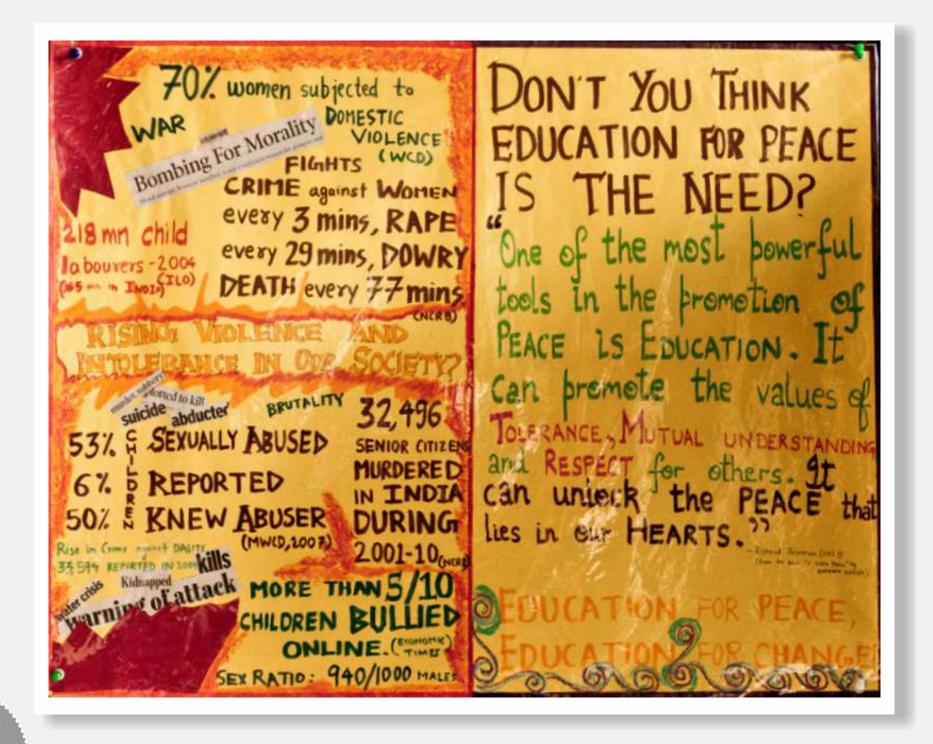


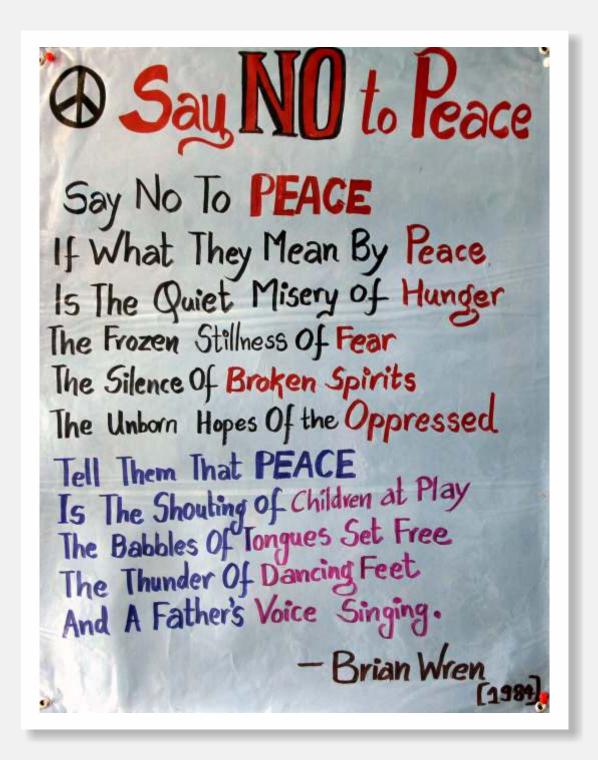


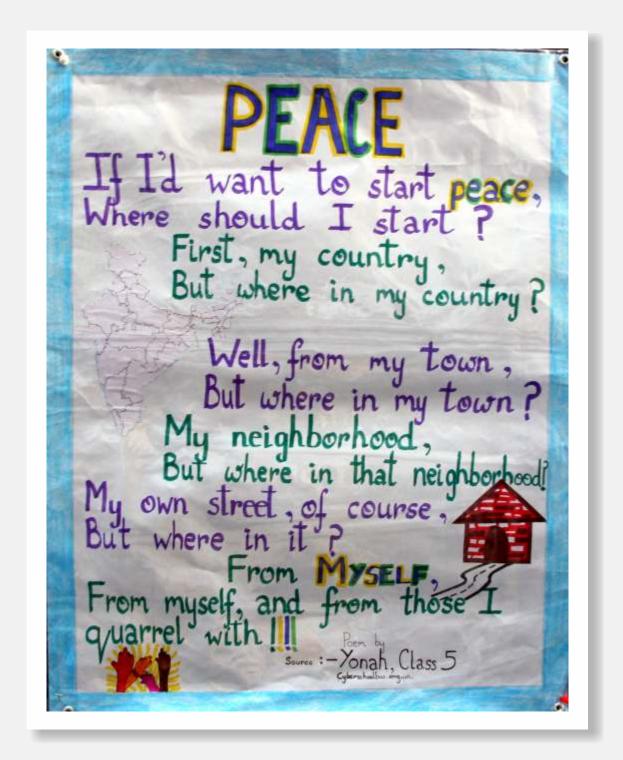


PEACE EDUCATION Ls... Uncovering the common thread of HUMANITY. YOU. Exploring the true Possibilities of mankind. A step towards RECONCILIATION. SELF. WE. Recognising and appreciating DIFFERENCES. A major piece of EDUCATION. TOGETHER. The basis of social JUSTICE. EQUALITY. DIGNITY. Living in GO-EXISTENCE . Developing the capacity to LOVE. EVERYONE. Building TRUSTING RELATIONSHIPS. Gultivating critical THINKING . TRANSFORMATION . Work for a better WORLD . EMPOWERMENT . Understanding threats. Experiancing RIGHTS and responsibilities. Reminding someone to Look THROUGH the eyes of another. EMPATHETIC. TEACHING and LEARNING . MUTUAL RESPECT. Gonflict RESOLUTION by NON-VIOLENT methods. A ray of HOPE.







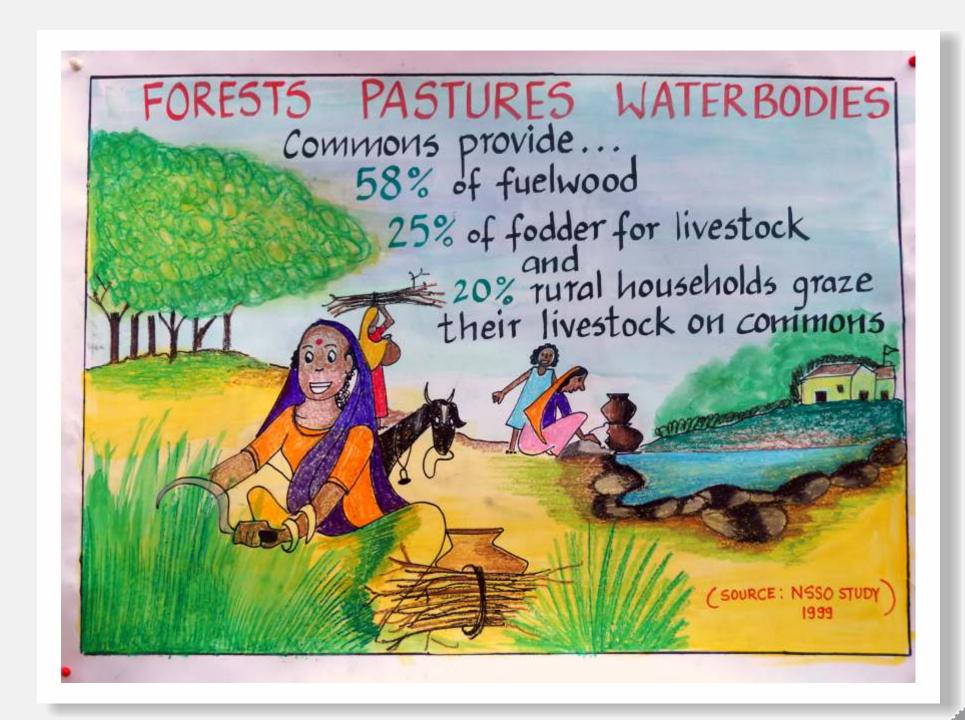


Urban Commons

Today Our Commons are threatened by Market Forces Infrastructural Development Industrial Projects and Archaic rules of LAND ACQUISITION. What does' FENCING OF mean to the commoners? Is it desirable? Does it lead us to an INCLUSIVE social order?

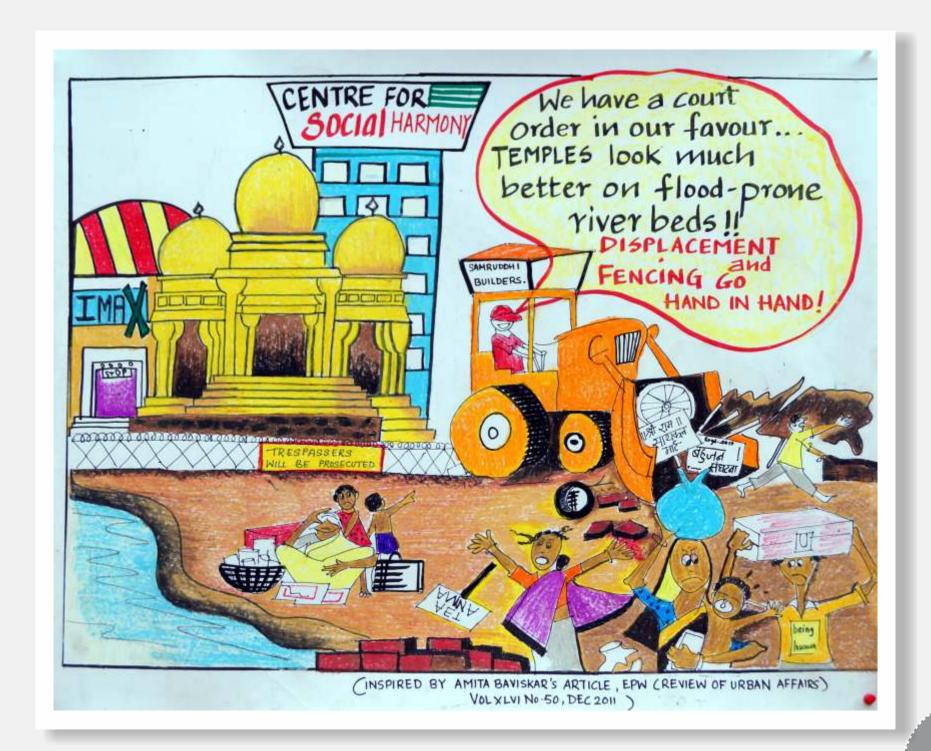






COMMONS DYNAMIC and COLLECTIVE RESOURCES They are used in 'SHARED',
'NON-SUBTRACTABLE ways.

Rural Commons include.... Pastures, Canals, Forests, Rivers.
Wastelands.tanks, reservoirs etc.
Urban Commons include....
Gardens. Public transport, streets
riverbeds etc. Gardens. Public transport, streets local bazaars. wetlands, beaches. riverbeds etc. COMMONS NEED COMMUNITIES COMMUNITIES NEED COMMONS !!

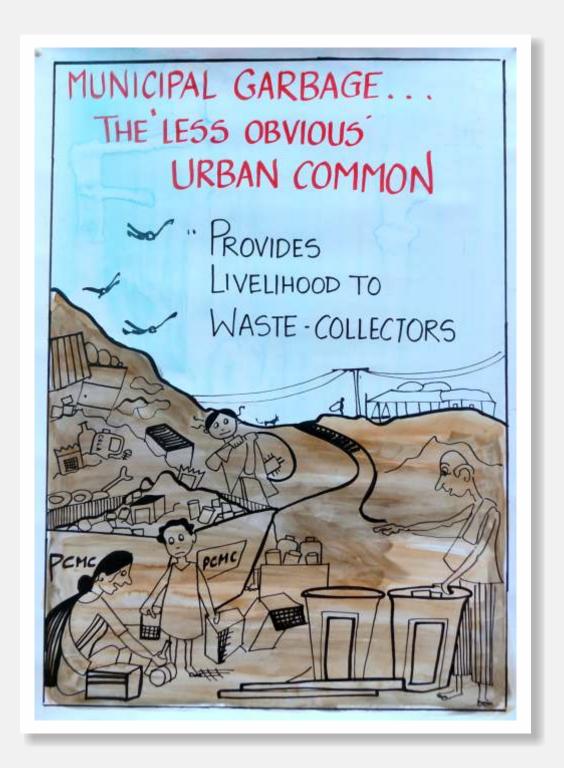


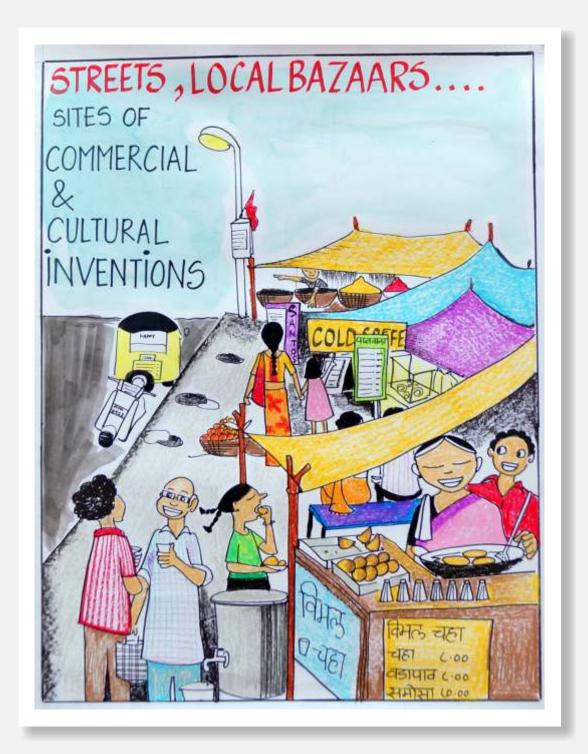
Commons Manifesto are essential for our SURVIVAL. INTERDEPENDENCE and not extreme individualism is the CULTURE OF COMMONS . COMMONS inspire and connect Communities. They help us confront major social justice issues of our times. COMMONERS USAGE RIGHTS are more important than COMMUNITY TRUSTEESHIP should be promoted.
A GREATER DEBATE ON COMMONS 15 THE NEED OF THE HOUR! (FROM - AGENDA, 15SUE 21, 2011)

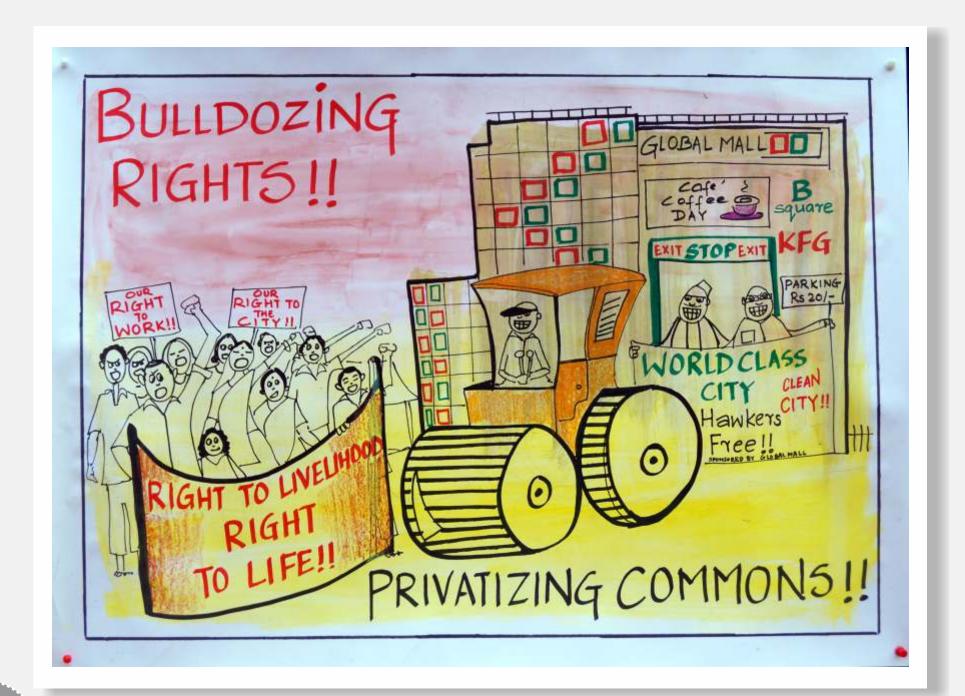


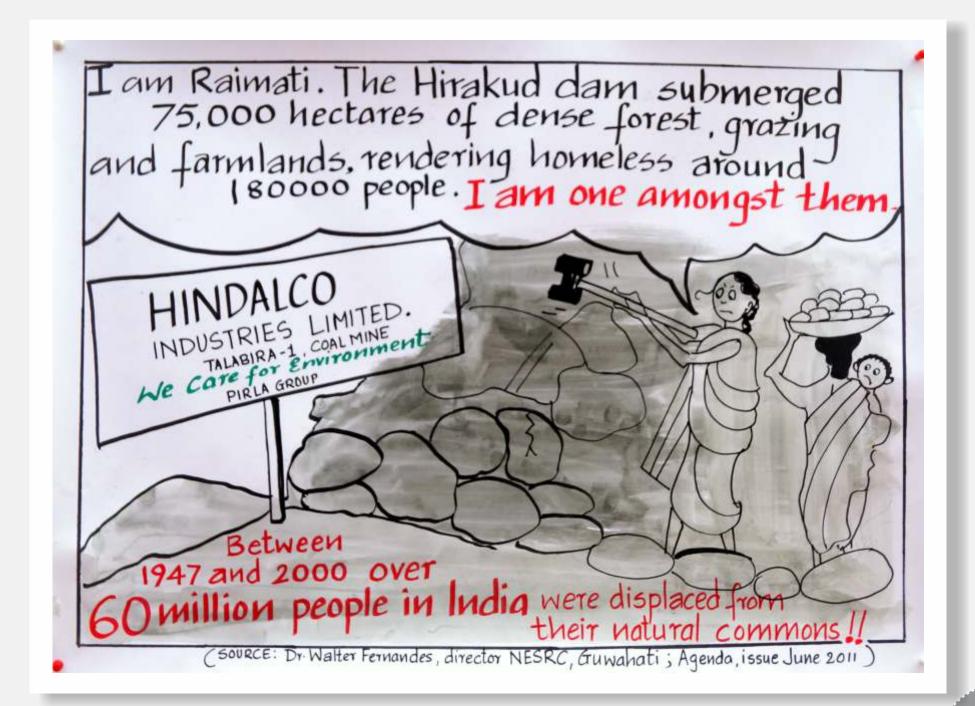












MISCELLANEOUS



